HISTORICAL SKETCHES

OF

OKTIBBEHA COUNTY

JUDGE THOMAS B. CARROLL
1860-1923

HISTORICAL SKETCHES
OF
OKTIBBEHA COUNTY
(Mississippi)

By

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MEMBER OF THE OKTIBBEHA COUNTY BAR, 1879-1923
JUDGE OF THE SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI, 1910-1923

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To the Memory of

MRS. THOMAS B. CARROLL

without whose sympathetic interest the result of Judge Carroll's labors would never have been published, this volume is respectfully and gratefully dedicated.

THIS VOLUME WENT TO PRESS
AUGUST 1, 1930.
MRS. THOMAS B. CARROLL DIED
SEPTEMBER 8, 1930.

"I am aware that this sketch can be of little interest to the general public; but the people of the county are interested in county affairs, and are more or less like members of one large family. What may be of trifling interest to the general public might be of vital interest to a member of a family if it relates to family history or family interest. This sketch, like the log of a ship, will attempt to narrate the progress of the people through the period of the sketch."

Judge Carroll, CHAPTER VII.

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PREFACE

"A history of Oktibbeha County should have been written many years ago, while many valuable documents were still extant, and while some of the first settlers were still living to supply from memory data that is now lost forever. Fires, which destroyed two Oktibbeha County courthouses, burned many books and papers almost essential to the historian. All the police records prior to 1863 were destroyed. The proceedings of the early Board of Supervisors also were destroyed; proceedings in respect to tax-levy, courthouse and jail, roads and bridges, and general business.

"So far as I am aware, nobody has ever written a comprehensive history of the county; and only one person has compiled an extensive sketch. In 1876, Mr. George E. Critz, having written this sketch, read it at a mass-meeting of citizens. After his removal to Texas, Mr. Critz lost the manuscript. Lacking thus these official documents and this historic sketch, I am handicapped in my undertaking; I shall however, write the best history I can by means of the material still available."

—From Judge Carroll's note-book.

The notes that Judge Carroll had made for his history were numerous, but unarranged, when Death called him. In respect to most topics essential to a continuous account of the county, his jottings were fairly full. In respect to some, however, only a few items appear in his notebook; and as regards a few important matters, which unquestionably he would have discussed, no entries appear.

After careful consideration, the editors thought their

duty to be four-fold: To correct such few errors of fact as inevitably creep into the work of the careful writer; to supply that data which doubtless Judge Carroll would have collected; when possible, to phrase the narrative in his own words; and to arrange the material.

Knowing much less about the county than the learned Judge knew, the editors were able to detect few statements which they knew to be erroneous. Doubtless they have overlooked other misstatements which the author would have detected had he completed his work.

Further, they have added only such bits of narrative as were essential to fill gaps in the narrative.

Again, the editors have tried to retain all possible of that charm of language distinctive of Judge Carroll. They believe that much of his picturesque vigor of phrase appears in the narrative. The very personality of the Judge would speak in every line, had the editors been able to see life through his learned eyes and to speak in the style pertaining to complete mastery of a subject. The stirring events of the past, far removed from the memory of the editors, are interesting history. However studious one may be, one sees the historic as through a glass darkly. These same events to Judge Carroll, who had lived through many and who had received descriptions of others from aged lips—these events were not mere lively history, but pulsing life. Had his pen, not ours, completed the story of Oktibbeha County, the reader would see men and women through a hundred years; would see the pioneer settle a savage wilderness, establish American government, operate slave-plantations, suffer heroically the privations of war, throw off carpet-bag rule, establish local self-government, and build our modern county

of free schools, of commodious churches, of diversified agriculture and flourishing industry.

Finally, the editors debated long the arrangement to give the notes. Obviously several arrangements were possible. The multitude of incidents might collect about several topics; for example, *The Choctaws, Foundation of the County, Officers, Social Life.* For those interested in a single topic, this arrangement is probably best; but it is artificial, giving a very partial and inexact view of county development. Our history has not been a development of *Business,* then of *School,* then of *Church;* it has been a complex simultaneous interplay of interests. Again, the data might fall into a simple chronology. Tabulation of facts year by year would resemble a time-table in which important topics reaching over a span of years would break into widely separated fragments and lose much significance. A compromise between these two arrangements appealed to the editors as best.

The arrangement of the book, therefore, is generally chronological. Each chapter, except the last, concerns one period; the first part treats the county as a whole, and the second part deals with the several beats. The last chapter is a resume of the legal life of the county, a subject in which Judge Carroll had great interest.

Though all regret that Judge Carroll did not live to complete his history, all persons interested in Oktibbeha County will be glad that he did collect the multitudinous data that make up the body of this book. The material is valuable. The mere reader will find many interesting facts, and the future historian will see a mine of precious data from which to draw freely.

Publicly the editors wish to thank those who have helped in various ways in the preparation of this volume. Especially

to Mrs. Thomas B. Carroll (Judge Carroll's widow) and to Mr. Stanley Carroll (the son), do we owe a debt for sympathetic assistance. To Mr. Robert H. Lampkin, we are also indebted for transcribing and typing the original notes. And to Professor Eugene S. Towles, head of the department of Modern Languages at the Mississippi A. and M. College, for assistance in reading the proof.

A. B. Butts
A. W. Garner
F. D. Mellen

A. and M. College
Oktibbeha County
Mississippi
August 1, 1930.

THOMAS BATTLE CARROLL

Thomas Battle Carroll was the eldest child of John Gillespie Carroll, M. D., and Narcissa Elizabeth Carroll (nee Williams). Dr. Carroll and his wife, natives of Carrollton, Alabama, came to Mississippi in 1850 and settled about seven miles southwest of Starkville, near the Louisville road. Here their eldest children were born; Thomas Battle was born March 18, 1860, and Febbie (Mrs. J. D. Hollinshead), two or three years later. About 1865, the family moved about ten miles east to Choctaw Agency; and in this old community the other children were born: Emma Beverley (Mrs. W. P. Ellett, of Miami, Florida), John S. (of Jackson, Mississippi), Eva (died in childhood), and Maude (of Starkville).

In the heart of the old plantation community, Thomas passed the first fourteen years of his life. He worked on the farm, attended the Agency school, and more important, became acquainted with people and with books. At the age of fifteen he was a boarding pupil in Gathright's school at Summerville in Noxubee County; then for two years he studied in Southwestern College (then Baptist) at Jackson, Tennessee. In December 1878, he entered the law department of the University of Mississippi, and five months later he received his law diploma, ranking second in the class. In September 1879, he became a member of the Starkville bar, though he made his residence for the next three years on the plantation. In 1882 he established himself in Starkville; and during the forty-one years of life remaining to him, he was a resident of the county seat, active in social, business, and political life.

From 1886 to 1888, he represented Oktibbeha County in the Legislature. Upon the organization of the Security

State Bank in 1896, Carroll became a director and the vice-president; and he retained these offices until his resignation in 1916. During the Great War, he was one of the leaders in financial, Red Cross, and other "drives."

From 1882 to 1890, Carroll was the law-partner of M. R. Butler (who served a term as district attorney); and from 1896 to 1910, of W. W. Magruder (junior partner). On May 1, 1910, Carroll became, by appointment from Gov. E. F. Noel, circuit judge of the sixteenth district. Except for nine months in 1914, Carroll remained on the bench until his death in 1923. He was conducting court when the stroke of apoplexy that caused his death overcame him. As a jurist, he was eminently successful. The Supreme court seldom reversed a decision rendered in Carroll's court.

On October 14, 1885, Carroll married Gertrude Perkins (daughter of Dr. Joseph B. Perkins and Mary Washington, of Agency). Of this union four children were born: Stanley (business man of Starkville), Eva May (died 1929), Gertrude (Mrs. W. H. Buckley, of Lewis, Louisiana), and Miriam (Mrs. George B. Cole, of Nashville, Tennessee).

Judge Carroll was much interested in the history of Oktibbeha County. During the ten years preceding his death, he gathered data from records and from old citizens of the county. His purpose was to collect all items of general interest, and to write a comprehensive story extending from the first settlement of Oktibbeha by the white men through the achievements of their descendants in the first quarter of the twentieth century.

Judge Carroll died on November 13, 1923. Members of the Bar throughout the district and many other persons of every rank attended the funeral. His grave is in the Odd Fellows cemetery in Starkville.

AN APPRECIATION

of the Life and Work of Judge Carroll
by his former law partner and friend
W. W. Magruder
of the Oktibbeha County Bar.

Thomas Battle Carroll died on the thirteenth day of November, 1923. His death was a great loss to his friends, his family, and his State.

In an intimate acquaintance with him, extending over a long term of years, I never heard him use a profane or vulgar word, nor tell a story of questionable propriety.

He lived a clean, pure life, a life of conspicuous devotion to his wife, his children, his grandchildren, and other loved ones. His home was a haven of rest and refuge from professional and judicial obligations, the best place in the world to him.

A man, himself candid, frank, and sincere, he had no toleration for sham, pretense, or affectation. He was a gentleman, a lawyer, and a jurist; a gentleman, because of birth, training, and tradition; a lawyer, because of his legal mind, his wonderful memory, his profound learning, and his superior ability; a jurist, because of his absolute passion for justice.

His Court was to him a tribunal for the administration of justice, not a place for display of skill in fence between lawyers. Though tenacious for the technical requirements of the law, he was insistent that the merits of every case be ascertained and vindicated.

In him on the Bench, the young lawyer found a firm friend, willing to extend a helping suggestion in any time of need or to give a word of encouragement. On and off the Bench he was a man of sense, business judgment, wisdom. As Judge of the Sixteenth Judicial District, he made a record that will constitute for all time his best monument. It is, in fact, my deliberate belief that he was the greatest jurist of his day in this State.

And so, I pay not the *last tribute,* but *this tribute* of affection to the memory of my friend, who was my partner and constant associate in the practice of law for many years.

W. W. Magruder

May 1, 1928.

HISTORICAL SKETCHES

OF

OKTIBBEHA COUNTY

CHAPTER I

LAST STAND OF THE CHOCTAWS

THE development of Oktibbeha County—in particular, the life of the early white settlers—is completely intelligible only through a knowledge of the country before the coming of the whites. Particularly pertinent is some acquaintance with the territory and with the life of the Choctaw Indians, the original owners, during their last stand in what is now Mississippi, from the year 1820 to September, 1830, when the Dancing Rabbit Treaty went into effect.

The territory now called Oktibbeha County was in 1820 only a part of the territory held in common by the Choctaws. Their domain included about 11,200 square miles, that is, about one-fourth of the present territory of Mississippi. Previously, the Choctaw holdings had been even larger. Several cessions in the first years of the nineteenth century had reduced their land-holdings considerably. In 1816, the cession of all land east of the Tombigbee River had made that river the tribal border on the east. In 1820, the Choctaw domain was practically surrounded by the white man's territories.

Like most other lands of the South a hundred years ago, the Choctaw lands were heavily timbered, though they appeared to be somewhat open; the undergrowth was sparse. That ponies, cattle, and deer might have excellent grazing, the Indians, in March of each year systematically burned out the scrubby growth, leaving the vigorous young trees and the large pines, oaks, walnuts, and cypresses.

The Choctaws were not nomadic, but fairly stationary in respect to place of residence. Less than any other tribe did they rely upon the chase for a living. Around their villages and later within their settlements, they made clearings; in these they raised corn, beans, peas, pumpkins, and potatoes; and quite a number raised cotton, some using negro slaves for the purpose.

Prior to 1813 the Choctaws lived in villages, for protection against hostile tribes. At the beginning of the second decade of the nineteenth century, they were at peace with all tribes except the Creeks, who lived principally in Alabama. Then they assisted General Andrew Jackson in subduing these warlike neighbors. Danger removed, they broke up the villages and formed settlements, in many instances hardly more than thickly settled communities. Several miles of uninhabited forest separated many of these settlements. Important settlements were *DeKalb* and *Philadelphia;* one, called *Pigeon Roost* was in Choctaw County.

To the Choctaws racial integrity was sacred. They admitted few whites among them. With special permission, some trappers and others lived within the domain temporarily; but no white man could live with them permanently until he had acquired Indian citizenship. Prior to 1820 only a few whites had become members of the tribe, and had married Indian women.

The Choctaw domain was divided into three districts. Over the western district, which reached beyond the Sunflower river, Leflore was chief; over the southeastern, Nittakeshi was ruler; and over the northwestern, in which Oktibbeha County lies, Mashulatubbe was chief. These men had the assistance of sub-chiefs and captains.

A few Choctaws had several wives each. Mashulatubbe

was a polygamist. When someone suggested the impropriety of having several wives, he replied that every squaw was entitled to a husband; that since the squaws outnumbered the braves, occasionally several squaws must have the same husband.

In the Choctaw domain, about twenty thousand Indians were living in 1820. They had an orderly, though primitive, government. A council, with legislative and treaty-making powers, included most of the leading men of the tribe. Two methods of voting were in vogue. In general, voting was done by means of a club, which passed from the head of the council around the whole assembly. If a member was in favor of the proposition, he struck the ground with the club; if opposed to it, he silently passed the club to the member next in the circle. In the election of officers, the Indians voted *viva voce*.

The officers were elective; even the chief was not an hereditary officer as is commonly supposed, but an elective. According to Gideon Lincecum, who knew the Choctaws well, the chiefs were elected every four years; but during the time Lincecum lived among the Choctaws, the chiefs were again and again reelected.

In what became Oktibbeha County a good many people were living in 1820. It is impossible to determine with any assurance of accuracy what the population was. Very few whites and few negroes were here. The Choctaws were overwhelmingly predominant; and they must have been considerable in number. This, the eastern part of their domain, was the most thickly settled part, and one of the three chiefs lived in the Oktibbeha region, and the number of settlements, as I shall show, was appreciable. The total population was, I believe, between a thousand and fifteen hundred.

There were five or six important settlements in Oktibbeha.

One settlement was in what we call Beat 5. This settlement was approximately four miles wide (from east to west) and seven miles long. The northern limit was where the Dossey Outlaw residence, built ninety years ago, still stands; the southern, at Noxubee Creek. A second settlement was in Beat 2, near our Mayhew. Two settlements were near the site of Starkville; one in our sections 22 and 23; the other, a little to the west, later bore the name Hebron. About fifteen miles to the north, in that part of the original Oktibbeha County which later became part of Clay, the Indians had one or two settlements. A settlement, too, was near the present Choctaw County line.

Trails connected the settlements with one another and with the outside world. Thus, a prominent trail, running through the county, bound the country northeast of Tibbee Creek to the western part of the county, where Louis White, a half-breed, lived, and to the Natchez Trace at French Camp. Intersecting this trail a little northeast of Starkville, another trail led from Lowndes County west to Pigeon Roost in Choctaw, where David Folsom lived. Across the southeast corner of the county, from southwest to northeast, ran an important trail or road.

This passage-way started at Doak's Stand, some twenty miles north of Jackson, entered Beat 5 at section 25, and continued northeastward to Columbus and on to Nashville. I think it was a regular road probably before 1820, though it is impossible to determine the exact date the road was built. The settlements now on the road were in existence as early as 1820. An act of Congress of 1823 refers to the road by name; and an act of the Mississippi legislature of 1824 refers to it. I am therefore of the opinion that Lewis' *Centennial History of Winston County* is wrong in saying that the road was built

about 1824, at a cost of $8,000 to the Government, by an engineer named Robinson. I believe that it was the only road that led from the white settlements at Columbus through the Indian country, in which Winston County lies, to the white settlements in the southwest. But since the Mississippi act of 1824, as well as the Federal act of 1823, appropriated money for the road, I believe Robinson, whose name the road probably bears, had charge of improvements on it.

At the time of the building or repair of the road, provision was made for the construction of bridges over small, but not over large, streams. Sometime later Daniel Nail built the first bridge over Noxubee. Nail was, some say, a white man who had married an Indian woman; I believe Nail was at least a mixed-breed, for he reserved Indian land not in his wife's name, but in his own. The first white man to own the bridge bought it in 1832. The bridge, built and rebuilt and changed, continued as a toll-bridge until shortly after the Civil War. Then the county erected a new bridge and made it free.

Possibly as early as 1820, on this Robinson Road or the trail, where it crosses Noxubee River, the Government erected a trading post called Choctaw Agency, and put an agent, Colonel Ward in charge, for the purpose of doing business with and keeping in touch with the Choctaws. To maintain relations with the Choctaws, the Government had a policy of establishing agencies in each of the three districts. Choctaw Agency is the only agency, so far as I know, that was ever established in the northeastern district. Exactly when the house was built no one seems to know; but I am reasonably certain that it was not later than the Treaty of Doak's Stand, in 1820, and I think it may have been as early as 1816, when, as I have said, the Indians ceded to the Government their lands east of the Tombigbee River.

The building had a brick basement. The upper story, of hewn logs, had two large rooms with a hall between and a porch in front. The lower story, which served as a prison, was well supplied with stocks for pinioning the legs of prisoners. The house was on the north side of the road. To the east of the house, stood the Government store; and to the west, the brick stack. Fifty yards to the southwest and on the south side of the road, were the stables.

To the Agency the Choctaws would sometimes deliver white men who had broken the law and fled to the Indian country, and sometimes would turn over negro slaves who, having escaped from their masters, had sought liberty among the Indians.

The Agency remained a Government outpost until 1832. Afterwards for some years it served as the residence of several different owners. Some remains of the building are still visible.

About the time the Agency was built, the Choctaw Council house was erected. This structure was about two and a half miles south of east of the Agency; in the southeast quarter of section 31, township 17, range 15. It was on the east side of the river, on a high bluff, above overflow, and about three hundred yards north of the Noxubee County line. The site is now owned by the Oakley family and is locally known as Council Ridge. The building, of split poplar logs, was twenty by thirty feet, and had a rough platform near the door.

Though heathen, the Choctaws of Oktibbeha, like all of their tribe, believed in the immortality of the soul, and wanted to improve their condition not merely materially, but also spiritually. Having heard that the Cherokees to the north, were profiting by mission schools, the Choctaws appealed to the white people of the United States to send missionaries into

their domain. In response, the American Board of Missions sent some missionaries in 1819. A party established a mission in the western part of the Choctaw domain, at Elliott, on the Sunflower River, and Cyrus Kingsbury came to the Oktibbeha country. He went over to Pigeon Roost, in order to consult David Folsom about the location of the mission; then the two made their way to Plymouth, on the Tombigbee, about six miles north of Columbus, to interview John Pitchlyn, the official interpreter of the United States Government for the Choctaws. Pitchlyn had lived among the Choctaws all his life. The three men made examination of various localities. Finally they selected the site. The place is just within the northeastern borders of Oktibbeha County, a half mile west of the Lowndes County line and about a mile south of the Clay County line, at the point where Ask Creek flows into Tibbee, on township line 20.

Here Kingsbury and some assistants soon erected a grist mill, a blacksmith shop, and a number of other buildings, and opened up a farm for the partial support of the mission. Here began in 1820 a school for the Indians. This school was probably the first agricultural and industrial school in the county —perhaps in the South. From many miles around, the Indians patronized the school. It was a boarding school. Usually the children might go home on Saturday and return on Monday. They studied not only the Bible, reading, writing, and arithmetic, but also the arts of making a living. The boys learned blacksmithing, carpentry, furniture-making, bridge-making, and farm work. The girls learned housekeeping, sewing, knitting, weaving, butter- and cheese-making.

Support for the school came from three sources. The Church, of course, contributed. The Federal Government also gave to the support. The Indians, however, bore most of the

burden. The grown-up "savages" made direct gifts in live-stock, and allowed six thousand dollars a year in annuities due them by the Government for lands sold at an earlier time to be applied to the needs of the mission. The pupils too assisted in supporting their school. The boys did the farm work; the girls, the household work; together, they greatly reduced the cost of maintenance.

The school prospered. The number of pupils ranged from sixty-five to seventy a year, divided about equally between the sexes. When the mission was at its height, about twelve persons, either missionaries or assistant missionaries, engaged in the work. Some were preachers; others, teachers of books; others, teachers of practical arts, such as blacksmithing and sewing. Prominent among the missionaries were Cyrus Byington, Calvin Cushman, David Wright, their wives, and Araunah Bardwell. Many other missionaries, however, worked at the mission or at the sub-missions later established during the ten or fifteen years of mission activity in the county.

Nearly all the missionaries came from Massachusetts or Pennsylvania. Kingsbury was a native of New Hampshire, but at the time of his appointment to the Choctaw work was a resident of Massachusetts. He had supervision of the mission work throughout the Choctaw domain. David Wright, his assistant, had immediate charge of the Mayhew station.

During the early years, the missionaries endured many hardships. They had to live very frugally. The difficulty of getting freight from Mobile was not trifling; supplies must come by keel-boat up the slow and unreliable Tombigbee and then travel over the trail, at times almost impassable. The cost of transportation was almost prohibitive; the river charge was five dollars a sack for coffee. Consequently the missionaries seldom enjoyed the stimulus or aroma of Mocha; usually they

drank a substitute made of rye grown on the mission farm. In addition to these privations, sickness and death occasionally afflicted them. In 1822, Kingsbury's wife died; the tomb still stands over her grave at old Mayhew. And a few years later, about 1826, David Wright's wife died; her grave also is at the old station.

From the very beginning, in 1820, the missionaries saw the necessity for roads. As soon as possible, they opened two wagon roads to the east, in order to reach Columbus conveniently, which had just been established, and Plymouth, a boat landing six miles north of Columbus on the Tombigbee. A little later, they built a road to the southwest, probably cutting along the trail which ran about a mile and a half west of where Osborn now stands. About the same time they built a road which, running a little west of south, passed east of the site of Starkville. I have no means of knowing what part of these two roads was prepared for wagon-use; but I think it quite probable that the one running west of Osborn was prepared for wagons as far as the Choctaw settlement later known as Hebron. About 1829 either the missionaries or the Indians made another road, which ran south from Mayhew to the Choctaw Agency and thence to Mashulaville, in Noxubee County, where the next year the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit was made. In going to and returning from Mashulaville, the commissioners, it is said, used this road which was called the Treaty Road.

About 1823 Calvin Cushman, having moved ten miles southwest of Mayhew, established a sub-mission. The place is about three miles northwest of Starkville; in section 29, township 19, range 14, not far from Cushman's Creek and about a half mile southeast of the Dick Lewis residence. Here

Cushman built a living-house, cleared some land, erected a church and a school. The place bore the name Hebron.

A little later multitudes of insects, probably grasshoppers, attacked the corn-crop of the Indians of the neighborhood and threatened it with destruction. Some of the wise men of the tribe prophesied that if twin boys should go into the fields and perform certain ceremonies and incantations, all the grasshoppers would disappear. The savages were at a loss to find Indian twins in the vicinity; so they sent a delegation to Calvin Cushman to borrow his twins Horatio and Alonzo. Mrs. Cushman was very reluctant to comply with the request; but deeming it unwise to refuse, she finally permitted the Indians to carry the boys away. When the Indians had taught the boys the incantations, they took them to a corn-field. The Indians remained outside the fence; the boys went inside and performed the ceremonies. Then the Indians took them to another field and to another, until they had visited every corn-field in the community.

About this time Cyrus Byington erected a sub-mission in the southeast quarter of the county, where the number of Indians must have been considerable. For a mission, numbers is surely an inducement. A considerable number is certainly indicated by the fact that only a few years later, thirty-two Indians, to my knowledge, secured land-reservations under the Dancing Rabbit Treaty; many who applied for holdings probably did not get them, for history tells us that, under one pretext or another, the land agents prevented the establishment or the recording of the Indians' claims.

Byington established the sub-mission in section 8, township 17, range 15, about a quarter of a mile east (that is back of) the Allison Randle place. He erected a house, which served for both church and school for training preachers. The house

stood for many years. Long after the Indians had left this country, the building was known to the white people as the Old Byington Schoolhouse.

Into this populous district the chief Folsom moved from Choctaw County. He established himself on the Robinson Road, in section 18, township 17, range 15. Here he built a commodious and very substantial house of hewn logs, which he operated as an inn. As time passed, more and more travelers making their way between Tennessee and North Alabama and the settlements in southern Mississippi found accommodation and entertainment here. After a diversity of use, the house stands today in fine state of preservation, easily the oldest building in Oktibbeha County. Mr. R. L. Carpenter is the present owner.

The Indian missions, especially the parent mission at Mayhew, exercised a very beneficent influence on the Choctaws. According to Horatio Cushman, son of the missionary, effects of the teaching were soon evident in the Indian houses. These were substantial log cabins, usually with dirt floors, and with two rooms, one of which was dining room and kitchen and the other the sleeping apartment. Many Indians acquired spinning wheels, looms, and cards; and each family raised some cotton, carded it, spun the thread, wove the cloth, and made the clothes. And the Indians now became less superstitious. After the coming of the missionaries, the savages killed only one woman convicted of being a witch, though they, like the whites a hundred years before, had long been believers in witchcraft.

To some of the missionaries the Indians gave distinctive names. Byington was the *Sounding Horn;* he had a fine physique and a melodious voice, pleasing in oratory. Kingsbury,

chief of all the missionaries, was the *Walking Wolf*. I do not know why they gave him this name.

The white population gradually increased. I do not know the names of some who settled here during the decade ending in 1820. I do know that the missionaries—Kingsbury, Wright, Cushman, Byington, and Bardwell were here; and I know William B. Cushman, brother to the missionary; and Dr. Araunah Bardwell, brother to the missionary, were in the county. I am almost sure that Grabel Lincecum was here in 1830. And I have some idea that W. C. Gillespie, a physician, Eldred Edmunds, William Tate, and Dossey A. Outlaw settled here prior to 1831.

In 1829 the Legislature of Mississippi provided that the laws of the State should operate in every section, including the Indian lands, and that it should be a penal offense for any one to act as chief. This meant that the white man's law should apply to the Indians; that Indian law was void; that the Indians were amenable to the white man's court for conduct even in Indian territory. Promptly the United States Government asked the Governor of Mississippi to suspend the operation of the statute until a treaty could be made with the Indians.

The next year a treaty-making council met at a place twelve miles south of the present southern border of Oktibbeha County, on Dancing Rabbit Creek. The missionaries at Mayhew had requested the Federal commissioner to allow them to attend the negotiations; but the commissioner positively denied them the privilege, saying that their presence would divert the minds of the Indians from the treaty-discussion. He did, however, allow a large number of whites from here and there to attend the council. Most of these were rowdies—such frontiersmen as gamblers, saloon-keepers, and desperadoes.

They brought faro games and other forms of gambling; and they publicly practiced dissipation of all kinds not in the daytime alone, but far into the night. Some of the Indians, too, engaged in dancing until late at night. Two notorious desperadoes were there—Red-headed Bill and Black-headed McGrew. These men bullied the crowd, bullied even the other desperadoes; they went among both Indians and whites, kicking over the faro tables and raising a general disturbance. In contrast to their depravity, a number of Christian Indians, led by David Folsom, held religious services each night.

Six thousand Indians, it is said, were present during the early stages of the negotiations; but many, becoming disgusted with the procedure, left before the treaty was signed. Nearly all the Indians, I believe, were opposed to the chief provisions of the treaty. Either the Indians could remove to the Indian Territory (now a part of Oklahoma), where, they were told, they would be free from interference by the white man; or they could remain in Mississippi, where they should be subject to the white man's laws.

The reasonings of the white commissioners were of little avail. Threat was more effective. The Indians would be removed by force, said one of the whites, if the Indians did not sign the treaty. To make the best of a bad matter, the Indian commissioners signed away their domain, or rather what remained of it. This was on September 27, 1830. So dissatisfied, however, were the Indians, that the whites next day thought it advisable to make some concessions. The treaty as modified known as the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit, was approved by Congress in March, 1831, and went into effect immediately.

CHAPTER II

REMOVAL OF THE CHOCTAWS

THE Treaty of Dancing Rabbit made possible the rapid transformation of an Indian wilderness into a civilized community. Within three years, 1831-1834, the Choctaw people, subject to Indian law and custom, had yielded place to the whites, circumscribed by county government.

Neither party to the treaty saw more than vaguely the immediate, to say nothing of the remote, effects of the treaty, either upon the Choctaws or upon the whites.

One of the provisions of the treaty was this: the Indians could reserve in fee-simple certain lands on which they were living and had made improvements, provided they filed with the Government Agent—the "Indian Agent"—reservation-claims within six months of the day the treaty should go into effect.

At first, few Indians desired to remain in Oktibbeha, subject to the white man's law. In time, however, a good many came to desire to stay in the land of their birth, even though subject to one who had seized their patrimony almost by force. Before the six months had expired, the Government Agent (one Colonel Ward) sent a message to the Choctaws, that he would meet them at the Council house (on Noxubee) on June 12, 1831, to allow all who desired to remain in Mississippi to file their claims. About a thousand Indians met the agent on the day designated; and for two or three days they filed claims. Most of these were half-breeds or the more influential full-bloods whom the agent thought it dangerous to

refuse. Few of the humble Indians, however, succeeded in establishing their claims. In many instances, Ward refused to register the claims. The chief of the Six Town people entered a claim for his people, presenting a bundle of sticks, each stick representing the land of an individual Indian; and through an interpreter, McKay, he asked Ward to register the claim of each of his people. Ward refused to do so. In other instances, after claims had been registered, the names of the claimants were erased from Ward's record. A great many who were under the impression that they had secured their claims, found when the six months had expired that they had not, and must leave the land of their nativity for the unknown far to the West. It is said that the agent, a constant user of intoxicants, was much under the influence of liquor during the negotiations, especially toward the close. Finally he announced that he had enough applications already, and would receive no more; and, gratuitously that the Indians wanted too much land. He adjourned council—the last Choctaw council in Mississippi.

Something over sixty families succeeded in making reservations in Oktibbeha County. The records show the names of these Indians and the reservations allowed, but in most cases are silent as to how the Indian eventually parted with either reservation or title. In fewer than a dozen cases do the records show that the Indians sold their land to the whites.

The claims allowed the Indians were indefinite, for the land was as yet unsurveyed. Immediately after the signing of the treaty, the Government put into this region a large force of surveyors, one of whom was William Walker.

The work proceeded very slowly. Until the survey was completed, description by range, township, and section was impossible. One Indian deed, made in 1831, after the treaty,

describes the land as "the home where I dwelleth, in the northward of David Folsom's, on the waters of Trim Cane." What lands would be available to whites for settlement were consequently undetermined.

This indefiniteness was small check to settlers. Those whites in the county before the treaty continued to establish themselves. Others came in as soon as the treaty was signed. Among these were Malcolm Green, David Gilchrist, John G. Skinner, Nicholas Fitzsimmons, James Bishop, Howell Peeden, Daniel Green, Malcolm Gilchrist, Robert A. Lampkin, William Cabaniss, Thomas Renfrow, Noah Eaves, Carmel Hightower, David Reese, A. Vaughan, Charles Dibrell, Elijah Hogan and Davis Ames, graduate of Dartmouth College (probably the best educated man in the county).

Naturally the pioneers and the newcomers settled on the good lands easily accessible to the roads. The earliest arrivals, with few exceptions, came through Columbus, and making their way over the Robinson Road to the southeastern part of the county established themselves there. Among these were Grabel Lincecum and John G. Skinner. Hardly later, other settlers, coming through the Aberdeen (Monroe County) district, and passing through Mayhew, turned westward and established their families in the northern part of the county. In this migration were Howell Peeden, the Hightowers, and the Reeds. At the same time others, either from Aberedeen or Columbus, made their way through Mayhew to the central part of Oktibbeha. Here Robert A. Lampkin and his brother-in-law Elijah Hogan stopped. Asa Reed and a few others turned west and settled in the Double Springs district. No one probably settled in the remote western or southwestern part of the county until the middle or late thirties.

Most of the early settlers came with wagons and teams.

The poorer brought their families and in a few cases a slave or so. The "extra well-to-do" brought at first only their slaves, who would clear the lands, build houses, and get everything in readiness, and the master the next year brought his family to the new home. As the roads were rough, the settlers could not bring furniture or bulky articles.

The dwellings, of hewn logs, generally consisted of two rooms, separated by a hall; the slave houses, which stood nearby, were less pretentious. By means of frow and adz, the builders cut puncheons to serve as the floors, and clapboards for lining the gables and sometimes for weatherboarding. Sawn lumber was occasionally necessary; it was made by whip-sawing. A log was elevated; a man stood above the log, and another below it. The two pulled a long saw through the length of the log, making rough plank of the approximate thickness desired. The method was of course slow, difficult, and expensive; hence most of this lumber went into furniture —chairs, tables, and so on. The beds were built in corners of the rooms. The carpenter set a post about five feet from one wall and about seven feet from the other, then connected the post to the walls by means of two poles. On the frame thus made, he laid a strong mat made of white oak splits. This supported mattress and bedding. Regardless of wealth, the settler used beds of this kind. Of course after a few months he began to furnish the house more comfortably and attractively, if he had an expert carpenter among his slaves. (For these facts I am indebted to Mr. J. A. Glenn, who learned them from his father. David Montgomery, Mr. Glenn's grandfather, had several slaves who made attractive furniture).

The creeks bore Indian names, of which many are now forgotten. Several creeks still have their Indian appellations. Chinchahoama Creek bears the name of an Indian captain

who resided in this county. Talking Warrior perpetuates in English translation the name of another Indian captain. Some think this man was a white whom the Choctaws had adopted. I think he was either a full-blooded Indian or a mixed-breed, for he was unquestionably one of the Indian delegation who about 1825 went to Washington to protest against the way the treaty of Doak's Stand was being carried out. Trim Cane had its English name as early as 1831. Tibbee Creek was then Oktibbeha. Some say that *Oktibbeha* signified a creek with seven prongs; but Halbert, perhaps the best authority on the Choctaw language, says it means *Ice in the water there.* Noxubee is the Indian word for *stinking water.* This name was given the creek not because dead bodies, thrown into the water, polluted it, as some persons have asserted, but because decaying vegetation, made thick by overflowing swamps, gives the water an unpleasant odor. Other streams which still bear Indian names or their translations are these: *Chitobochiah,* which crosses the road between Hickory Grove and Mayhew; *Little Dancing Rabbit* and *Tobacco Juice,* which flow southward from section 4, township 17, range 14; and *Oktoc,* which is in the remote southern part of township 17, range 14.

Some of the settlers came from the North Atlantic states, especially from New England. Most, however, came from Virginia, Tennessee, and in particular South Carolina. Many had prospered where they were; but from reports that had gone into their states about the new Indian country, they believed that it was fabulously rich in fertility, and thought it would be to their interest to come. At least a few were already rich in slaves and lands; they came not so much to increase their wealth as to ensure to their children a still greater prosperity in the new country.

Most were considerably under middle age. Many were members of that hardy and honest pioneer class to which right-thinking Americans rejoice in tracing ancestry. Being as yet unable to buy lands of the Government, they bought some claims from Indians, trusting that the claims would eventually be validated by the Government. Cushman, the missionary, who had already been here more than ten years, and Elijah Bardwell, the missionary, paid the Indians a dollar and a quarter an acre, the price charged several years later by the Government for similar lands. And Dr. Araunah Bardwell, also for some time a resident, bought reservations in 1831.

Some of the newcomers, however, were not stable men who had come to settle permanently and develop the country into a moral and business community, but were rough and ready men who had come to traffic with and exploit the Indians. Some rowdies, it is said, seized the improved and desirable reservations of Indians, and by physical force drove the "savages" away. Still others were mere land speculators, who came to select and, as soon as the territory should be thrown open to the public, to record desirable lands. They had not long to wait.

In 1832 or 1833 the report of the surveyors became public. This described the country; giving not only section and quarter-section lines, but adding comments on topography and fertility; noting timber and streams and lay of the land. This valuable report is in existence still. Upon its publication, the Government threw the lands open to settlement; and on November 27, 1833, the Land Office began to sell and to record claims at a dollar and a quarter an acre.

The speculators acted at once. Some probably had never visited and inspected their claims, but had merely read the

surveyors' descriptive report. They could and did buy much of the most desirable land, many thousands of acres in many parts of the county. During the first three days the office was open, large buyers entered claims for practically all that is now Starkville. Daniel Green, Malcolm Gilchrist, the Moss Land Company, and others were the buyers. They paid a dollar and a quarter an acre, with the view of reselling immediately at a much higher price. For the most part, they succeeded; for these speculators were in position to make large profit out of the *bona fide* settlers who were just beginning to come in with the idea of getting acquainted with the land and securing good sites for homesteads.

The pioneer found it quite a problem to get his grain ground. Many settlers had to travel long distances, sometimes to the older settlements on the Tombigbee, to get their wheat ground into flour and their corn into meal. At an early day, however, most of the large slave-owners had their private grist-mills, operated by horse-power.

A second provision of the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit was this: the Indians that would migrate should have three years in which to leave for the Indian Territory; a third were to go each year. None, in fact, left Mississippi until fifteen months after the treaty was signed.

They were very reluctant to go; many had to be threatened or forced. Indian-like, they made no provision for the long and hard journey through what was then a wilderness, unbroken except by water courses and occasional clearings, to the far West. They relied upon the Government to provide for them. The Government paid contractors to remove them. The first lot left in the winter of 1831-2. The weather was unusually cold. They were scantily provided for; they en-

dured untold suffering; most of the women and children were bare-foot; a large percentage died enroute to the Territory.

The Indians, it seems, were to remove by neighborhoods. Horatio Cushman describes the departure of the Hebron neighborhood. Several days before the date for departure, the Indians began to assemble; they camped around his father's house. A great cry, or public mourning, went up for the land they were leaving. The squaws, wrapped in blankets, gathered in circles and wailed and mourned continuously for several days. The men were silent and sullen.

Many of the tribe did not remove within the three years. Sometimes trouble arose between an individual Indian and an individual white man. In 1830, near the turnpike in southeast Oktibbeha, Grabel Lincecum in a personal altercation killed a Choctaw. The act was probably justifiable, or at least excusable, under the white man's law, but not under the Indian's, which in case of homicide admitted no legal defense, requiring that he who had killed another, no matter what the circumstance, accidental or intentional, should forfeit his own life. Lincecum thought it prudent to leave. Accordingly, with his wife, his seven-year-old son, and their baby in the mother's arms, he journeyed to Arkansas, following Indian trails. Later, having made a settlement satisfactory to the Indians, he returned with his family to this county. To and from Arkansas, the family journeyed on horseback; Lincecum taking his son behind him on one horse; the wife, carrying the baby in her arms, on another. What hardihood had the women and children of Oktibbeha a hundred years ago!

In spite of the Mississippi statutes, the Choctaws preserved their tribal relations, lived under their own laws, and recognized their chief as their sole ruler, as long as they remained in the State. After all claim on the territory by the Choctaws

had been extinguished by the treaty, the chief, Little Leader, executed an Indian for some violation of Choctaw law. The whites indicted the chief, arrested him, and, after a trial in the Circuit Court in Kemper County, sentenced him to death by hanging. Under the white man's law he, of course, had no defense. To the verdict he replied with a ferocious war-whoop; and, except for restraint, he would have attacked the jurors. He did not object to dying, but he did object to being "weighed," the Indians' expression for being hanged. While in jail, he attempted suicide. A short time before the day set for execution, he received a pardon.

Several times I have referred to David Folsom. He was a remarkable man in many respects. He was a half-breed. He says he attended school some five or six months, but he appears to have been well-educated. His letters are grammatical; his composition is good; his intelligence is more than ordinary. Probably before the missionaries came he was one of the few Indians who had become Christians. Not only did he help select the site for the Mayhew mission, but he became and remained one of the chief supporters of the mission work. A man of deep piety, he was active in religious work from young manhood, he exercised remarkable influence over the tribe, and early in life became a captain or sub-chief. In 1821 he became a charter member of the Masonic Lodge organized at Columbus.

In 1830, when he was thirty-nine years old, Folsom appears in the Dancing Rabbit Treaty. He favored the treaty; he realized that the Choctaws could not resist the whites. To prolong the life of his nation, he did the only thing possible—approved the exchange of the Choctaw lands in Mississippi for lands in the West, where he thought his people would be beyond the reach of the whites for many years. He knew the Indians could not submit to Saxon laws.

I am not sure that he was a slave-owner, but believe that he was. He was a man of wealth, able to own slaves. His brother-in-law and his son-in-law, who lived only a few miles from him on the Robinson Road, but in Noxubee County, had slaves.

After most of the Indians had left the county, unlike Leflore, the half-breed chief of the western district, Folsom sold all his property in Mississippi and went to his tribe in the Indian Territory.

There by election, he became head-chief of all the Choctaws. He was the first chief ever elected by ballot, hence called the first republican chief. While still in office, he died in the Territory in 1841. The inscription on his tombstone reads: "To the memory of Col. David Folsom, the first republican chief of the Choctaw nation, the promoter of industry, education, religion, and morality; was born January the 25th, 1791, and departed this life September the 24th, 1841; age fifty-six years and eight months. He being dead, yet speaketh."

In 1831, the Robinson Road was becoming a very important highway. In the community of Folsom, the chief Folsom continued to operate his inn for the convenience of travelers. Here about 1832 several stores sprang up, and "town lots" began to sell.

Four or five miles to the southwest, between the Agency and the Council House on Noxubee, Washington Frazier in 1833 built for John Mulling a horse-mill intended to grind twenty-five bushels of grain a day. Mulling refused to pay for the mill, claiming that it did not grind twenty-five bushels. He lost his case. It is possible that Mulling now took Bentley D. Arnold into partnership.

About 1831, building began in the Starkville district. One attraction to the settlers was two large springs, about where

Ward's gin stands now, long used by the Indians; good water was quite an inducement in a country having no wells or cisterns. Another attraction was the lay of the land, for the site of Starkville is a complete water shed, as may be seen by a glance at a topographic map. A person traveling east from the western boundary of Starkville, where the C. A. Hogan place is, on past the Methodist church, on past the overhead bridge, to a point a quarter of a mile northeast of the A. and M. College, a total distance of two and a half miles—one remains on the apex of a ridge. Water falling on the north side of this apex runs northward to the tributaries of Trim Cane; water falling on the south side, makes its way south to the tributaries of Noxubee River. The settlers believed that this excellent drainage made the district healthful. Many of the houses were made, not of hewn logs, but of clapboards, got from a mill established to the southwest about this time. Hence before long this central community bore the name Boardtown.

Beattie Tate conducted the first store in what is now Starkville.

About 1831, a half-breed named James killed a white man near the site of the B. L. Magruder residence. The grave of the slain man is in the present Odd Fellows Cemetery, just south of the Magruder house.

In 1831 James Bishop came to the county and probably at that time settled five miles west of Starkville. He came from Virginia, bringing with him two men slaves and a young man named Eldridge Edmonds who understood lumber-making. In 1832, Bishop erected the first lumber-mill in the county; in section 12, township 18, range 13. Horses supplied the power for cutting. The mill had no saw, but a beam on each end of which was a steel tooth. As the horses pulled,

the beam turned on an axis, the teeth striking the log to be sawed. The work was slow and hard on both men and team. Fifteen hundred feet a day was the maximum cut. The lumber sold for twenty-five dollars a thousand feet. The old mill site is still *Peck Mill*. Few people know that the mill cut by pecking; most suppose it cut by sawing, and bore the owner's name.

By the close of 1833 a good many families were settled in the county, I believe several hundred had established themselves in various communities. Definite information is unavailable. No official document has come down to us that will give even approximate information concerning most of the names and residences. Undoubtedly, the majority lived in the eastern half of the county.

CHAPTER III

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COUNTY
1833-1837

ABOUT 1832 the Legislature of Mississippi authorized the division of the Choctaw domain into counties, and appointed commissioners to lay off the boundaries and to direct the organization of county government. John Billington was one of the commissioners.

On December 23, 1833, Oktibbeha County came formally into being.

The area was somewhat larger than it is now, but the lines lay in the same directions. The southeast corner was what it is today; i. e., the intersection of the line between ranges fifteen and sixteen with the line between townships seven and six. From this point the east boundary ran to a point a little west of the juncture of Buttahatchie Creek with Tombigbee River. From here, the north boundary extended due west to the line between ranges eleven and twelve. From here, the west border extended south to the line between townships seventeen and sixteen. And from this point, the south boundary ran due east to the starting point.

The north boundary, thus, was seven miles farther north than it is now. In 1871, a strip seven miles wide and twenty-four miles long (from east to west) became a part of a new county called Colfax, now called Clay.

The county had five districts (beats). The lines did not run as now; I find it impossible to determine their location.

They probably ran to fit the population; the residence of the first members of the board of police (supervisors), who were supposed to live in their respective beats, indicates this.

The districts had names, not numbers as now. I find the names of three: the Mayhew, the Southern, and the Northwestern; but I find no names for the central and the southwestern districts.

Hebron was the county seat.

The important settlements were Mayhew, Folsom, and Boardtown. Tributary to these were several smaller settlements in various parts of the county.

Probably the only voting-precincts at the first election were Mayhew, Folsom, and Boardtown. This election continued through two days; the people were scattered and the roads were bad. For a number of years an election lasted for two days, that the citizens might have plenty of time to vote.

The first county officers were, naturally, residents. The members of the board of police were Elijah Hogan (president), Dossey A. Outlaw, Grabel Lincecum, John G. Skinner, and Howell Peeden. Hogan lived in Boardtown; Outlaw, about six miles to the southeast; and Peeden, in the northwest district, north of Cedar Bluff, in what is now Clay County.

The board of police kept pretty busy. They had practically the same duties and powers as our board of supervisors. The county police had a hard time in providing for new roads, improving old roads, and building bridges, for, to start with, the treasury was empty, and for years to come the source of taxes, property-value, remained small.

David Reese was the probate (chancery) judge, a county officer. Charles Dibrell was the probate clerk; he remained probate clerk for twenty-two years, until he had become old

and infirm. He was a cripple, having one leg shorter than the other.

John Wiseman was assessor and tax-collector; Robert Bell, county treasurer; James Wiseman, ranger; Fielding Oakley, coroner; Asa Reed, county surveyor.

Robert Allison Lampkin was the sheriff. For many years he exercised an important influence in the county. He was born in Madison County, Alabama, November 3, 1809; moved to Mississippi about 1832; married Cemantha Rand of Franklin County, Alabama, in the fall of 1835; was a religious, business, and political leader until his death in 1885. His children were Robert Allison II; Elnora (Mrs. J. W. Caldwell, mother of Joe Caldwell), Cordelia (Mrs. Connell); Kittie (Mrs. Rand); Alexina (Mrs. Gillespie); and Edwina.

Since the property-assessment was small, the salaries of the county officers were hardly more than nominal. Men served not for profit, but for honor; like some men today, they desired office, with or without pay, for the distinction it might give them.

James F. Trotter, of Monroe County, was the circuit judge; General Reuben Davis, of the same county, was the district attorney; and A. Vaughn, of Oktibbeha, was the circuit clerk, serving as late as June 4, 1835.

Henry Gibson, in 1835, was the first representative of Oktibbeha County in the State Legislature, and James Walton, in 1837, the senator representing Oktibbeha, Chickasaw and Choctaw counties.

The first justices of the peace were these: for the Mayhaw district, W. N. Valentine and James Copeland; for the Southern district, Calvin Cushman and Josiah Skinner; for the Central district, William Cabaniss and David Ames, and for the Northern, Squire Clark and H. B. Vaughn.

In March, 1834, the following were serving as constables: for the Mayhew district, Noah Eaves; for the Southern, Thomas Renfrow; and for the Northern, Carmel Hightower.

The first circuit court was held at Hebron, near Cushman's house, in 1834. As the weather was good, the session took place out of doors. There was very little business. A large crowd was in attendance, however. On the opening day, nearly every white man living in the county was present. Judge F. Trotter and District Attorney Reuben Davis were on hand.

Both of these men, residents of Monroe County, were young; Trotter was about thirty-one; and Davis, about twenty-three. Both were Whigs at that time. Both had distinguished careers.

Trotter had been a member of the Lower House and later of the Senate in the Mississippi Legislature. Then he became circuit judge. In 1838 he received an appointment to the United States Senate, but, before taking his seat, tendered his resignation in order to accept a place on the Supreme Bench of Mississippi.

Davis served as district attorney until about 1837. Gradually he became one of the most distinguished lawyers in Mississippi if not in the South, in criminal cases. In the Mexican War he attained the rank of colonel. Later he became a member of the United States House of Representatives, and in the War between the States, he served in the Confederate Congress. A few months before his death, General Davis gave me a description of our first circuit court.

As early as 1834, the board of police licensed a citizen to keep a ferry and to charge toll where the White's Road crosses Tibbee Creek. At this early date, it is clear, the road was known as White's east of Boardtown (Starkville) as well as west. The western part of the old trail, from Hebron past

Louis White's house in the Southwestern district, became a public road about this time, if not before. This western part, unlike the eastern, is known as the White's Road to this day. At this time another road, which passed through Boardtown, ran through the county from northwest to southeast. This road was in good condition in 1837; so I learned from Mr. Daniel G. Holbrook, who passed along it in that year.

The fields on both sides of this road appeared to be old fields, Mr. Holbrook said in the same conversation; the Indians had cultivated them for many years, he thought.

The early settlers had much difficulty in getting freight from the distant cities and much trouble and expense in transporting their cotton to market. The farmers of the northern and central parts of the county hauled their cotton to Plymouth and shipped it to Mobile; frequently they had to store it at Plymouth until the river got high enough for boats to maneuver. The farmers, great and small, of the Southern district sent their cotton to Moore's Bluff, another landing, a few miles south of Columbus. And the merchants of the county hauled their goods from one or the other of these landings.

The amount of hauling was minimized by the fact that the early settlers raised their own meat. At the very beginning, they ground their own home-raised grain. Before long grist mills became common. These were operated by horse power. The meal was very coarse; fine meal was a rare luxury. Grits and lye-hominy were very popular foods.

Many of the farmers did their own plowing, cultivating, harvesting, and marketing. But from the beginning, a few farmers employed slaves for the harder labor, and thus began in Oktibbeha County the economic system that for thirty years determined not only its policies but very cast of thought.

Many early settlers were members of the church. Protestants predominated overwhelmingly. Though the Presbyterians had come first, they were now third in number; the Baptists were second; the Methodists, first. The early settlers did not erect church-houses as soon as they came, but they did hold religious services in any appropriate and convenient place. I am unable to ascertain whether the services were denominational or union.

Old Mayhew was a very important gateway to the county; but after the organization of county government, it never equalled either Folsom or Boardtown in size and business activity. Owing probably to its site in the remote northeastern part of the county, people thought it would never become much of a town. In 1835, the mission buildings were still standing; in addition, there was a tavern.

What was the population of the county in 1834? Some idea may be gotten from the number of votes cast in an election that year. Sixty-nine votes were cast. If every man voted, the white population probably exceeded 350, counting, of course, women and children. At Folsom thirty votes were cast; the whites in the Southeast district, I infer, must have numbered at least 150. I have no idea how many Indians were still in Oktibbeha in 1837. About that year Chief Folsom and many of his followers, who had remained with him, left for the Indian Territory.

Folsom sold the inn to William McAndles. The latter opened a liquor shop in connection with the hostelry. Patronage was good. A stage coach was now running over the Robinson Road from Columbus to Jackson and the town of Folsom was a "stand." Here the driver exchanged his jaded horses for fresh ones; and the travelers enjoyed a short rest, and many sampled liquors at the groggery, or grog-shop.

In the old building in which Byington had trained preachers, William Walker, formerly the surveyor, was teaching school. This may have been the first school after the county was organized; certainly it was in operation as early as 1836. I have seen the contract between Walker and the patrons. It stipulated how many pupils each patron was to send, the length of term, how much he should pay (price depending on number of children), and how many weeks of free board he should give Walker. It was a general custom in those days for the teacher to board free from house to house.

Probably from the organization of the county, Dr. Edwards had been practicing medicine in the Southeast district. He is the first physician I know of in this district.

Down on Noxubee Creek, in the very early 30's, Bentley A. Arnold probably had a water mill; for about 1835 he sold two sets of mill-stones to John Mulling, who had built a mill on the creek, in township 27, range 14. About 1836, Mulling sold the mill to Jonathan Emmery, who ran it until he was killed in a fight near Bucksnort just across the Winston County line. This mill is generally known as Lincecum's mill.

A mile or so up the creek, in the northern part of township 34, and about 1835, the same Jonathan Emmery and Ezekial Nash built a water-mill. In '37 Emmery sold his interest to Nash, who in '39 sold one-fourth interest to John M. G. Nash.

A mile and a half east of where Sessums stands, Joseph Perkins in 1837 built a grist mill (horse-operated), which served the immediate neighborhood.

On June 12, 1835, the Baptists, living near the center of beat 5, organized Salem church. William Calloway and Grabel Nash comprised the presbytery. There were six male members. Seaborn S. Middlebrook was the clerk; he served

until July, 1837. The Rev. Grabel Nash, an antecedent relative of Wiley N. Nash, was the pastor for '35 and '36. Skelter Sanefer and John Daily were the first deacons.

From 1833 to 1837 the Central district developed rapidly.

In the southwestern part, the Peck mill cut much lumber and probaly made good profits for the owner, Bishop.

The people of the Boardtown community were building clapboard houses and otherwise preparing to have a real town. In February, 1834, Robert A. Lampkin, the sheriff, and William B. Cushman, brother to the missionary, sold to Elijah Hogan, as president of the board of police, twenty-five acres on the ridge near the two springs, as a town site, for $10,000. The board, or Hogan acting for it, divided the purchase into blocks, separated of course by streets. The boundaries of the purchase are as follows: From the intersection of Cushman and Lampkin streets east to the intersection of Lampkin and Houston (now Jackson), thence north to the crossing of Houston and Stagg (now Jefferson); thence west to the intersection of Stagg and Cushman; thence south to the point of beginning.

The most westerly street was Cushman; next, Walker, which ran through the Ward gin site; then, Washington; then, Lafayette; last, Houston. The most northerly street was Stagg; the middle, Main—20 feet narrower than now; the southern, Lampkin, which ran just back of where Zeno Yeates' residence is today.

The board of police marked off lots. These were larger than our present day lots, being about 66 feet wide and 160 feet long. This done, the board offered the lots, all except one centrally located, for sale. They conducted at least two public auctions, and then effected some private sales. In the auctions only the lot on which the Walker building stands and the

blocks on which the Methodist parsonage and Martin's Hardware store stand, found purchasers. The lot on which the Masonic Building stands brought the highest price—$182.50; Elijah Hogan bought it; that upon which the Walker building stands brought only fifty cents less. The lots farthest to the east commanded the smallest price; those in front of our Baptist church brought only $12 apiece.

And now Boardtown changed its name to Starkville, and secured a postoffice. Robert A. Lampkin, the sheriff, was the postmaster.

In 1835 Starkville became the county seat; and on the lot reserved, the board built of hewn logs a courthouse and a jail. Each was a one-room structure, the courthouse being the larger. The jail had neither doors nor windows; the officers let prisoners down by means of a rope.

About this time James W. Eastland, who later became sheriff, killed Silas Hollis. The killing took place at Eastland's gate, some fifty yards north of the intersection of Cushman and Lampkin streets. This was the second manslaughter in the village. It was the result of a personal altercation. Eastland was not indicted.

Starkville was becoming a boom town. The price of lots rose rapidly. As many as five stores were running at one time. Some of the proprietors were Heath & Hawkins, Eastland & Kerr, Perkins & Gillespie, and Bell & Lampkin. And some of them carried large stocks of goods.

At the corner of Main and Washington streets, Elijah Hogan erected a tavern. This was of clapboards. In order to be up-to-date and attractive, the floors were not of dirt, as usual, but of puncheons—timbers riven with the frow and smoothed with the drawing-knife. And somewhere in town, Fielding Oakley also erected a tavern. The proprietors ob-

tained licenses, giving bond in the sum of several thousand dollars.

Of course the community had "groceries", what would now be called saloons. Since the proprietor of a "grocery" had license to sell spirituous liquors, he had to make bond, in the sum of five hundred dollars, to keep an orderly house and allow no gambling on his premises. In some correspondence of that day the groceries are referred to as "tippling" places. In 1835, S. J. Bishop and John Velvin ran a grocery; Norton and DeLesment also ran one; and in 1836, William B. Tate was conducting a grocery in the inn operated the year before by Hogan; and during this general period Wm. Cabaniss probably had a tippling place.

Starkville evidently had groceries which sold liquor, though some persons have said our town never had tippling houses and that groceries were not such places. The license and the bond cannot be denied. The licenses were issued in the years 1834, 1835, and 1836. Further, I have a press copy of a letter, dated February 1839, addressed to the Reporter of the High Court (Supreme Court) and signed by E. E. Clark, a Starkville lawyer, stating that the board of police had issued licenses to run tippling houses or to retail spirituous liquors; that it had been reported here that the Legislative Act had been construed to mean that no one except a tavern keeper was entitled to such license; and desiring to know whether the Court had rendered any such opinion. In view of these facts, I have no doubt that the groceries sold liquors legally until 1839 and that any tavern keeper, who should pay for the privilege, might have continued to sell alcoholic beverages.

In 1835, the first bank in the county came into being—the Starkville Real Estate and Banking Company. The principal stockholders were Robert A. Lampkin (who was president),

Nicholas Fitzsimmons, John Quinn, Jordan Reese, Joseph Yeates, Frederic Oakley, A. W. Hines, L. L. Reese, Thos. Talbert, Nathaniel Ward, Thos. Moore, H. Peden, and others whose names I do not know. The bank thrived for a few years. It printed its own money.

Several shops were in the town.

About two hundred yards west of the court house stood a community house, which served nearly all public gatherings. The religious people used it for services until they were able to erect church-houses; and folks for many miles around gathered here to worship. The Presbyterians and the Methodists soon organized; the Presbyterians in 1835, and the Methodists possibly in the same year, but more probably in 1836. The moving spirit among the Presbyterians was Araunah Bardwell, who gave the church-lot at the intersection of Lampkin street and what is now Louisville street. The building was a brick structure. The Rev. Mr. Campbell was the pastor. Among the Methodists, Robert A. Lampkin was the leader. He gave the lot for the church-house—where the present church stands. The building was a frame house. The charter members were W. S. Heath, Elijah and Mary Hogan, James and Louise Walton, and W. H. Wilson They had no pastor until 1840.

In the log courthouse, David Ames taught school. Possibly he or another had been teaching since the founding of Boardtown; as far as I can trace, he taught the first school established for whites in the county. In 1837 the school had about fifty pupils.

In that year, or shortly later, the board of police tore down the log courthouse and erected a brick building, with a shingle roof, a common form of architecture in those days.

In 1837, the State Legislature granted to Starkville a town

charter. David Ames was probably the first mayor; for the law provided that the mayor should be a justice of the peace elected in the town—and Ames was a justice of the peace from 1834 to 1838, and lived in the town. The board of selectmen (aldermen) were Elijah Hogan, Robt. A. Lampkin, Richard L. Graves, L. L. Reese, David S. Moody, Thomas H. Todd, and James Cleft.

At that time four lawyers lived in town: David Ames, Richard T. Graves, and the two partners, George H. Flournoy and Edward E. Clark. And two physicians, both very early settlers, were in the community: Araunah Bardwell and W. C. Gillespie.

Approximately a mile north of Starkville, the Wisemans began operating a grist mill about 1835.

The northwestern part of the county developed earlier than the Southwestern. In the northwestern section two settlements have borne the name Double Springs. The original Double Springs was in the extreme western part of the county, in section 19, range 12; one mile west and a half-mile south of the Greensboro road. The village was dead before 1853. My information about the village comes largely from Mr. T. C. Archibald, a citizen of Choctaw County, who is past eighty years and who grew up in the old community. In a letter to me he says that the town derived its name from two very bold springs near the site. As early as 1836 a blacksmith- and a wood-shop were there; and at the same time a post-office, of which Asa Reed was master, and a Presbyterian church were there. In 1837, the Methodists established a church; and the following year, the Missionary Baptists organized.

Some enterprising citizens evidently were in this district. One of them, Emanuel Jose, settled on the Greensboro road as early as 1835, and operated a tavern. Jose was a Portugese to

whom the Government had given naturalization papers for services rendered as a sailor in the American navy. After retiring from the Navy, he settled near old Double Springs. A good many of his descendants are in the county now.

Between 1833 and 1835, a few persons probably settled in the Southwestern part of Oktibbeha. It was at this time, I believe, that Thomas Davis and Dr. Bond, who lived with him, settled a mile or two south of the site of Sturgis; and that Dr. Bryan settled about three miles north of them, about where the village of Whitefield sprang up a few years later.

Two topics concerning the whole county deserve consideration: one is political; the other, social.

In 1835, James Eastland, succeeding Lampkin, became the second sheriff. The following year John M. Moore, of the southeastern district, was sheriff. In 1837, Eastland again became sheriff, now for a term of four years.

In 1835, John J. Skinner succeeded David Reese as probate judge.

In 1836, Calvin Cushman succeeded Elijah Hogan as president of the board of police.

From 1835 to '37 Thomas Talbert was county treasurer. His successor, Asa Reed, resigned in '37, and the lawyer, Richard T. Graves, became treasurer.

After 1835, but prior to 1839, William G. Shaw was a justice of the peace for the Southeastern district.

Probably in the winter of 1835, A. Vaughn either died or resigned, leaving vacant the office of circuit clerk. In May of 1836 Alexander Bell was acting as circuit clerk. As the result of an election held that summer, Joseph Yeates became circuit clerk, for a term of two years.

This election was our first contest for political office. Yeates, whom I knew well in his old age, told me twice about

this election. His opponent was Elijah Bardwell, the former missionary. At the time Yeates was a youth of only twenty-two or twenty-three years, unknown to most of the voters. Bardwell was a man of mature years, a man widely known. The voters at Folsom knew very little about Yeates and were uncertain about his qualifications, but they knew Bardwell and knew that his stern manner did not suit them. At Mayhew, only six votes were cast; at Starkville, thirty; at Folsom, thirty. Folsom decided the election.

During 1836-7, W. R. Norton remained our representative in the House of the State Legislature; and from 1837 to 1843, James Walton represented us in the State senate, being the senator for Oktibbeha, Chickasaw, and Choctaw counties. Walton's home was at Starkville.

To all appearances, the county was prospering. The period was the height of what is called *Flush Times in Mississippi.* Money was abundant, and credit was almost universal.

The saw mills were cutting lumber to supply the needs not only of the population already established but also of newcomers. From the organization of the county, the farmers had been rapidly clearing and developing their lands; and now many of them were increasing the number of their slaves. Probably unaware of the fact, they were laying the foundation of the economic system that for more than thirty years dominated the county. The merchants were bringing in large stocks of goods; it is said that one of the stores in Starkville carried goods of almost every description—groceries, hardware, drugs, drygoods. Some of the general stores carried even the finer liquors, including champagne. Though whiskey sold for only twenty-five cents a gallon (dollar or two at the present worth of money) the grog-shops flourished. People generally were engaging in extravagance.

Credit—everybody had credit—the county was full of money. Nearly all transactions were on a credit basis. The merchants sold on credit. One Starkville store sold on credit more than fifty dollars worth of goods a day through a period of several months. And the credit sales of another was about a hundred dollars a day, sometimes more.

Prices are interesting. We should remember that twenty-five cents then was equal to a dollar or more now. Whiskey was only twenty-five cents a gallon; champagne, two dollars and a half a bottle. Silk handkerchiefs were a dollar apiece; writing quills, thirty-seven cents each; domestic was twenty-five cents a yard; calico, forty cents; silk, a dollar and eighty cents; clarret cloth, eight dollars; writing paper, thirty-seven cents a package; thread, twelve cents a spool; a package of needles, twelve cents; a dozen gunflints, twelve cents; a lady's fine bonnet, four dollars and a half; a spool of ribbon, thirty-seven cents; linen, thirty-seven cents; negro cloth, sixty cents; pair of broggan shoes, a dollar and a half; cambric, twenty-five cents; a pair of lady's shoes, a dollar and sixty-two; blacking, twelve cents; a pair of trace chains, one dollar; corkscrew, fifty cents; pair of extra fine shoes, three dollars; pound of coffee, twenty cents; pound of almonds or of raisins, thirty-eight cents; sugar, twenty cents; gunpowder, fifty cents.

An acre of good farm land was worth two or three dollars.

Some of the young men around town were in the habit of meeting for a good time. Old accounts that I find show that some young fellows, well known later, sometimes charged a bottle of champagne at $2.50, and sometimes charged their "part" at fifty cents, seventy-five cents, and so on; apparently a party would buy a bottle and divide the expense.

One young fellow was quite a Beau Brummel. A descendant of his, now frequently on Starkville streets, is one of our

best dressed bachelors. Well, the Beau Brummel back in 1837 charged a fine coat, $26; a fine vest, $9.00; a fine hat, $10.00; a silk umbrella, $8.00; a ruffled bosom shirt, $3.00; a pound of fine candy, $1.50; hand-mirror, $.50; small box of blacking, $.06; tooth-brush, $.25; wooden pocket-comb, $.06.

I mention these articles and prices not merely to show the dress of a beau a hundred years ago, but to give a better idea of *Flush Times.*

CHAPTER IV

DARK DAYS—1837-48

AS we have seen, the county was enjoying boom times in 1837. Starkville was growing; the merchants were doing a big business; the bank was apparently flourishing. The country, too, was developing. The farmers were clearing more land, raising cotton, shipping to Mobile, and paying the local merchants; the big farmers, too, shipped their cotton to Mobile, satisfied the commission merchants there who had furnished them, and then borrowed money with which they bought slaves and mules in order to raise even more cotton the next year.

Our people did not need much cash. They raised their vegetables, grain, and meat at home. Occasionally they might need some cash to pay immediately for a slave or two. Most people, whether in town or in country, had good credit. In Starkville, notes were made, readily endorsed, and readily taken. Credit was almost universal.

Further, there was an abundance of currency, of many kinds. Nearly every state then issued its own bills; which circulated not only in the state of issuance, but in other states; and much of this "money" found its way into Oktibbeha. There was Alabama money, and Tennessee money, and Massachusetts money, and Carolina money, and Mississippi money, which circulated at different rates of discount. Our folks generally considered Alabama money as best. The Legislature of Mississippi had chartered many banks and railroad companies

giving them the right to issue money. Most of the Mississippi money that circulated in this county was the Brandon Bank money—this eventually became worthless—the president of the bank committed suicide. The Starkville Real Estate Bank was the only organization in Oktibbeha, so far as I can find, that issued money.

The method of financing banks, in Mississippi and in other states, was this: The stockholders deposited ten per cent of the capital authorized and gave a mortgage on their real estate, payable to the bank, for ninety per cent. On the basis of the mortgage the bank would print money and put it into circulation. This was the plan followed by the Starkville Real Estate Bank.

The bank building was situated where the Peoples Savings Bank stands now. For a year or two, the banking company did considerable business; the public had confidence in it and readily accepted its "money" in payment for time or in settlement for property.

In 1837 the Great Panic swept the United States. Banks everywhere were called on for specie payment, and many failed. In Mississippi, our people found their money almost worthless. Creditors were demanding payment; and debtors had nothing with which to pay, except depreciated currency, much of which creditors would not accept. Many persons had kept no memorandum, either of the persons whose notes they had endorsed or of the sums for which they were liable. Few men knew exactly what they owed. Claims went into the hands of lawyers, and courts were filled with suits. Merchants called upon customers to settle up, in order that the store-keepers might pay the wholesalers. Many customers could not pay; the merchants were in financial trouble. This was the case here in Oktibbeha County. By 1838 conditions

were getting desperate. The Starkville Real Estate and Banking Company began to suffer.

Instead of taking warning when stringency began in Mississippi, the legislature continued until 1841 to charter banks, railroad companies, and even blacksmith shops with the power to issue "money."

I am in possession of "press copy letters" written between December 1838 and April, 1839 by E. C. Clark, law-partner of George H. Flournoy. In describing the desperate conditions, Clark says, "More than a dozen kinds of money issued by the banks of Mississippi are in circulation here, and most of them are acceptable only at various discounts. The money of the Union Bank (Jackson, Miss.) is almost as good as Alabama money, but will soon be tendered only at a discount unless the Legislature soon passes a law that the bank either redeems its notes with specie payments or forfeits its charter." I infer that none of the bank's money was legal tender. Clark speaks of declining to accept any but certain kinds of bank money in payments of notes and judgments in his hands for collection. "All Starkville merchants are refusing to accept Brandon money in payment for goods. The currency of the State is gradually getting worse."

Clark advises his brother, a young farmer in Tennessee who wants to move to Oktibbeha, to stay where he is, declaring, "This is no place for a farmer. Very few droves of hogs have arrived this season; the price of pork is eleven dollars in Brandon money, a very poor price, considering the value of Brandon money. There is no sale for horses. Money that is good today, will be worthless tomorrow. Lands are foreclosed to a few buyers at a very low price. The land suits me because of my profession."

On March 14, 1839, Clark writes to Capt. A. Eastland

(address not given) in respect to the Starkville Real Estate and Banking Company, "The stockholders are solvent, but they are not redeeming their notes at this time at all and the money sells at about 33 1-3 per cent discount. If you would send it (a note) here, arrangements might be made for you to get something for it which would answer your purpose. I have no doubt they will redeem every note as soon as they can collect the money due the bank. I am firmly of the opinion that their intentions are honest."

The day of reckoning was here, for private individuals, for merchants, for bank. Suits were entered against many parties and were prosecuted. To be sued was a much more serious matter then than it is today. Now it can mean only loss of property; then it might mean loss both of property and of liberty. Though there was no direct imprisonment for debt, the suing party could demand that the sheriff arrest the debtor and demand bail of him. Under these circumstances, the debtor sometimes decamped. He gave no advertisement of his leaving, except perhaps to a chosen few. The first information his creditor and the public had of his going was that he was gone, having left the night before for parts unknown. From Oktibbeha there was a small exodus to the distant lands of Texas. Some persons abandoned the lands they knew they could not pay for, and departing carried with them their personal property, including such slaves as they owned. With the intention of getting beyond the reach of the sheriff, they left no post-office address. They escaped their debts; they hoped to make a second start in life in the new country. Several merchants (there were but a few in town) failed. And in the summer of 1839, the Starkville Real Estate and Banking Company closed its doors in failure. The property of many

of the stockholders went under the auctioneer's hammer. In this county the sheriff sold more property in the three years following 1837 than any other sheriff has ever sold in the same length of time.

The local bank gone, farmers and other business men now had serious difficulty in obtaining funds with which to do business. The Union Bank, at Jackson, made a few loans through E. C. Clark, who prepared abstracts and titles. The Commission merchants of Mobile lent farmers, especially the big ones, the money absolutely necessary for farm operations; and the farmers obligated themselves to ship their cotton to the commission merchants.

When fall came ox-teams or mule-teams from the several parts of the county slowly and laboriously hauled the cotton to the Tombigbee. The roads, seldom good, were almost impassable through the prairies when bad weather had set in. The merchants, too, had to make use of these summer and winter, good weather and bad, to haul their goods from the river-ports to Folsom or to Mayhew and thence to Starkville.

During the financial depression, all the slaves and a good many white people wore home-made shoes. Shoe-making and tanning became an important industry; and tanning yards appeared in various parts of the county. Slave-laborers did most of the work both in tanning the leather and in converting it into shoes. The yard-owner usually bought hides; that is, he gave a piece of manufactured leather half as large as the hide. Tanning was a laborious process. To tan a hide thoroughly required about two months.

In spite of the panic, Oktibbeha grew rapidly. Within six years, the population increased from a few hundred to several thousand. According to the Census of 1840, the total

population was 4,276, of whom 2,064 were whites; 2,197, negro slaves; and 15, free negroes. A few Indians were still in the county, Mr. Olympus Lincecum tells me.

The livestock included 1,537 horses and mules; 8,447 cattle; 762 sheep; 10342 hogs.

Among the agricultural productions were 158,990 bu. corn; 1,300 lbs. wool; 1,900 lbs. tobacco; 4,582 bales of cotton of 400 lbs. each; 2,475 bu. wheat; 16,065 bu. oats.

Almost no manufacturies existed. The total, as given by the Census, consisted of 2 grist mills and 3 sawmills, valued at $700, and a tannery or two, valued at $400.

There were only seven stores in the county at the time; the commercial capital was $80,000.

The thirteen private schools gave elementary training to 247 white pupils.

During this period of depression, two parties (Democrats and Whigs) contended for the political field. The Democrats were usually in the ascendant. In respect to State and National offices, they observed party lines strictly; but in regard to county and beat offices, they frequently ignored party affiliations. In 1842, the people of the county sent to the Legislature David Montgomery, who, I am of the opinion, was the first outright Whig to represent the county in the Legislature.

Our representatives were John J. Skinner, 1838-40; Richard Ellett, 1840; S. A. Harrington, 1841; David Montgomery, 1842-3; W. R. Cannon, 1846. There were several others, whose names and dates I do not know.

Skinner and Harrington lived in the Southeastern district; Ellett, in the Southeastern (?); Montgomery, in the Central district; and Cannon, in the Northeastern district. Skinner was the most active man in the county; had been a member of he first board of police, was the second probate

judge, and was all along a slave-holding farmer. Of Montgomery and Cannon I shall speak somewhat in detail later.

In 1843 James Walton quit the State senate; and John H. Williams became senator for Oktibbeha and Chickasaw counties for the years 1844-46. Littleberry Gilliam, his successor, was a resident of Chickasaw County. Both were prominent farmers, probably slaveholders.

In 1838, Nicholas Fitzsimmons became president of the board of police.

In that year Elijah Bardwell, the recently rejected candidate succeeded Yeates as circuit clerk. Bardwell remained in office until 1844. His successor, A. J. Maxwell was clerk for several terms. Bardwell, as we know, had been a missionary, was now a farmer and a resident of the eastern part of the county. Maxwell lived a few miles north of Starkville; he, too, had farm interests; and he was prominent during the War of '61-5.

In 1838 Thomas Talbert was probably our county treasurer—I have no complete list of the treasurers.

At the same time, David Ames succeeded John J. Skinner as probate judge. He remained in office many years.

Charles Dibrell remained probate clerk during this period.

In 1841, Moses S. Westbrook succeeded James Eastland as sheriff. He remained in office until 1857. He was a slaveholder, living near our Black Jack.

In 1846, Frank M. Rogers, of Monroe County, became circuit judge; he served until 1853. He was a Whig.

Down in the Southeastern district, farmers, new and old, were acquiring slaves. A few of the most prominent landlords were Dossey A. Outlaw, Dr. J. L. Edmunds, Robert H. Spencer, Sr., John Hollinshead, Arthur C. and Percival Halbert, Spencer A. Harrington, Archibald Moore, and John W. Rice.

About the beginning of this period the good folks in the Southeastern district organized a church near Bentley D. Arnold's place, is section 14, township 17, range 15. Arnold was one of the leaders of the church. After he sold out and went to Texas in 1845, the church went down. It had no connection with Bethesda, which was established much later.

Dr. J. L. Edmunds, Dr. Clem W. Johnson, and Dr. E. R. Burt were the physicians in the Southeast district during this period. Dr. Jourdan was there in the early 40's. It is probable that Dr. E. R. Burt began his practice prior to 1848.

For some years after the beginning of this period, Ezekial Nash and John Nash, junior partner, continued to operate the two water mills on Noxubee River. They did a flourishing business, not only grinding corn and wheat, but also sawing lumber at each of the mills. Just above the lower mill, later called Lincecum's the Nashes cut a canal, in order to have plenty of water for mill operations even during drouth. People from long distances brought corn and wheat to these mills to be ground, and some brought lumber.

The mill used what was then called a sash-saw. It operated vertically, cutting only with the down-stroke. The process, though slow, did not require the constant attention of the sawyer. He devised a trigger-apparatus, which allowed him safely to leave the saw and attend to other business. When the saw had cut the log lengthwise, the saw struck the rigger, which in turn dropped the waterdoor and cut off the water. Upon the return of the operator, he changed the position of the log, raised the waterdoor, and thus set the saw to work again. Slow as the cutting was, it was much faster than that done at the Peck mill; and it was also much cheaper, for the watermill utilized the free power of the river, while the Peck

mill used the expensive power of horses. The water mill consequently made lumber cheaper.

About 1840 William Shaw took charge of the old Folsom tavern. Shaw, it is said, owned some slaves who were fiddlers. Sometimes when merry, he would call for the fiddlers to play; and holding a gun on his guests for the night, he would compel them to dance. On one occasion, a mule-drover who had danced to midnight, got the drop on Shaw and compelled him, to the entertainment of the other guests, to dance until daylight. Shaw refused to take pay from the drover, saying that so good a man deserved free entertainment.

At this time some very boisterous spirits lived near Folsom. The following story has come down to us: One S. had been much annoyed by a neighbor's continual calling upon him for turnips. S. had a good turnip patch, but the neighbor did not. S. accommodated the neighbor several times. Finally when the neighbor came to "borrow" some more turnips, he found S. much under the influence of liquor. S. insisted that the borrower stay to dinner, promising that a bountiful supply of turnip greens would be on the table—and it was. S. helped the neighbor, perhaps more than once. Having eaten heartily, the borrower shoved his plate back; but S. insisted that he eat more. Drawing his gun, S. forced his guest to eat all the greens on the table, and then gave him an arm full of turnips to take home.

Mortification rankled in the borrower. That night or the next, he returned with a shot gun intending to kill S., who always wore brass buttons on his coat. A light shone from the house on a series of bright objects on the porch. The neighbor fired—and blew to pieces the brass-banded water bucket. (Then, according to my informant, the borrower went to another neighbor, borrowed some money, and fled to Alabama,

where he remained for three months before he learned that he had assassinated a water bucket.)

The Robinson Road grew in importance. About 1840, stage coaches began to run regularly over this road from Huntsville, Alabama, to Columbus, Mississippi, and, through the southeastern part of Oktibbeha County, into Winston and on to our capital Jackson.

At distances varying with the nature of the road were "stands." Here the stage-driver would remove his tired-out horses and hitch up fresh horses always kept ready for the coach. Here, too, if night were falling, the travelers might secure entertainment and beds. And here, too, even in a rapid journey, the travelers might refresh themselves at the bar. The bar was closed to the general public, I think, and open only to *bona fide* guests, particularly the stage travelers. The license probably confined sales to these visitors. From statements of older people I know that when the stage arrived at a stand, most of the travelers would alight and immediately rush into the tavern to regale themselves with liquors.

There were two stands in Oktibbeha, but I am inclined to think they did not operate at the same time. The sites are only five miles apart. I think that the Folsom stand closed about the time the other stand opened. The latter was at the present Charley Hartness place. Jeff Moore kept it. For the guests, Moore used the extra rooms in his large brick residence. Fire destroyed this house in 1867.

About 1846 some party built a telegraph line along the Robinson Road from Columbus to Jackson. Columbus claimed to have the first telegraph office in Mississippi. In 1865 glass insulators used in stringing this line still remained on standing trees; I have seen some of the insulators. Physical evidence of the line remained up to thirty-five years ago.

Folsom was a lowly place, with much drinking and fighting. Only one serious scrape, however, took place. Ned Martin stabbed a man. The injured man recovered. The town died out about the close of this period.

Hardly a mile away another town was growing up. It was the new Choctaw Agency, a namesake of the Government meeting place with the Indians on Noxubee River six miles to the southwest.

About 1845, two coaches a day began to run, one each day in each direction carrying passengers, and one a week in each direction carrying the mail. During the summer months the trips were regular. But when bad weather set in, the coaches moved with great difficulty over the almost impassable road; and in the severest weather, they did not move at all. Then the driver, who was under contract to carry the mail, fastened a great big box between the front wheels of a wagon frame, put the mail into the box, stood in it himself, and drove four large horses. Occasionally he took a passenger whose errand was urgent. There was no place to sit down; so both men stood up, the passenger holding to one side of the box, the driver supporting himself with the reins.

One of the older citizens described a ride he took under such conditions. The driver agreed to take him upon learning that the trip was imperative. "If you will do the riding," said the driver, "I will do the driving, and I'll get you there on time." The distance was something like fifty miles, the mud was deep, and the weather was awful. Frequent changes of horses, jaded horses for four fresh and powerful ones, enabled the men to make considerable speed. Travelers and horses arrived at the journey's end without accident; but my old friend was completely exhausted.

About a mile before the driver reached a stage, he took

from his side the bugle he always carried, placed it to his lips, and blew a ringing blast to announce his coming. In good weather, the four large horses moved at a gallop. The people along the road looked forward eagerly to the passing of the stage. They regarded it with the same open-eyed wonderment that many people today regard the passing of a fine express train.

During this period Salem Baptist church flourished. The pastors were: B. Holbrook (1838), Geo. Tucker ('39), W. M. Christman ('40), J. C. Keeny ('42-'45), B. Holbrook ('46), W. H. Holcombe ('46), Samuel McGowan ('48). The clerks were O. K. Colburn ('38-'39), S. C. Harrington ('39-'40), W. T. Moore ('45-'58). According to the minutes of the Columbus Association of 1847, the Salem delegates were Dossey A. Outlaw, Percival Halbert, W. T. Moore, and W. S. Bray. The church had 120 members, of whom 72 were slaves.

About 1838 Joseph Perkins established the first tanning yard in the county. It was not far from his grist mill. The Askew Crossing road passes north and south through the old site; and the right of way of the Mobile and Ohio railroad (Starkville branch) runs through the northern end of it. Here Perkins bored a deep well, the first artesian well in Oktibbeha. The tanning yard supplied most of the leather used in the county before 1845 for the manufacture of shoes and saddles; at the height of its activity, it did a large and paying business.

About 1845, a school house stood near the Starkville-Macon road, about a quarter of a mile southeast of where the road crosses Turkey Creek; that is in section 18, township 18, range 15. A good many families lived within the radius of two or three miles. Mr. H. R. Raymond was the principal. Later he became the Presbyterian minister of Starkville. The school was well known as the Little Vine Academy. (If so,

there have been two of this name in the county; the other was a few miles from Crawford.—Editors)

In the Mayhew or Northeastern district, numerous families were living during this decade. The more prominent farmers were slave owners. Among them were William S. Bray, James L. Boyd, David Askew, James McKell, Henry Hodnett, John H. Gay, William Perry, Thomas Jordan, Noah Eaves, John T. Montgomery, and Maj. John Thompson.

About 1840 Dick's Ferry was operating across Tibbee Creek about where the Starkville-West Point road now crosses the stream. A boat landing was at the place, from which most of the boats on the stream operated.

About the same time, Maj. John Thompson established a landing a few miles to the southwest, on the same creek and not far from his residence, and began shipping cotton by water to the Tombigbee and thence to Mobile. Probably a little later, someone established another landing still farther up the creek. The older citizens will remember this as *The Boat Landing*. It was about where the Starkville-Houston road crosses Tibbee. Pearson's landing was the last toward the source of the creek. Near it Pearson had a water mill for grinding corn.

During the summer months the boat owners would remove from the stream all obstructions that could impede floats, and would cut away the overhanging timber. Slaves, of course, did nearly all the heavy physical work. Then, when fall came the farmers would load the cotton on the floats, built to carry three hundred bales each; and not until high water came, I presume, did they start the floats on the trip to market. Sometimes the boatmen would unload the cotton at the Lowndes County river ports, to await transportation by river boats to Mobile. Sometimes, however, our raftsmen would carry the

cotton on down the Tombigbee and the Alabama to the Gulf city.

The Tibbee boats remained in use until the coming of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad in the late 50's. The boatmen steered the boats by means of long poles which they shoved against creek bank and bed, and by means of long hooks; by hooking trees along the banks, they were able to pull the rafts forward.

I have no evidence that any of these barges hauled cotton for the general public. But I know that all, except Thompson's boats, hauled for a number of people. Perhaps most of the boats "attached" to a landing were the property of several farmers living in the neighborhood. This conclusion certainly is suggested in the Pearson Landing Boat case. One of the rafts which left that landing lost its cargo in whole or in part on a trip down the Tombigbee. In a suit lasting two or three years, the Court undertook to place the responsibility for the accident and to settle the damage claims.

The Mayhew Presbyterian church gradually grew weaker and weaker. Calvin Cushman and Elijah Bardwell, the former missionaries, transferred their membership to the newly formed Starkville Presbyterian church. In 1845, the Mayhew church—the first Presbyterian church in the county—ceased to exist.

During the whole decade however the Mayhew Baptist church flourished. In 1847, it had 75 members, of whom 29 were slaves. Its delegates to the Columbus convention of 1847 were Samuel McGowan, Israel Gabrel, and J. H. Embry.

Between 1837 and 1848, some prominent families were living in the Northwestern part of the county.

According to Mr. T. C. Archibald, the first school in this section opened at old Double Springs in 1840. About 1844, N.

U. Wood operated a mercantile store here; and about 1845, Dr. Ledbetter was practicing medicine in the community. He is the first doctor I hear of in this part of the county.

A mile or so to the southeast, in 1841 Thomas J. Parkinson erected a water mill. The mill was in section 29, township, 19, range 12. Parkinson did not attempt to get power from the creek, which at this place is a small branch; instead he secured power by impounding the water from a large spring a half mile from the creek and letting it out through a mill-race which he constructed. He erected the mill, mostly of chestnut timber. The mill ran for ten years; in 1855 only the damaged mill-race and the fallen logs remained.

About 1845, Ignatius Dudley built a water mill four miles farther down in Trim Cane bottom, in section 1, township 18, range 12. This mill was very much like Parkinson's in construction and in operation.

Both mills ground corn; but neither, I believe, had wheat-stones or saw attachments.

In the southwestern part of the county, a few people were living in 1837. Development of this section went on slowly during the decade ending with 1848.

Some of the prominent people were Thomas Davis, Dr. Bogan, Dr. Davis, Henry Sikes, J. P. Woodson, Robert Quinn.

At an early date a water mill operated on Noxubee River, not far, I believe, from where Morgan's Chapel is today. Another mill, over the line in Winston County, called the White mill, ground the corn and possibly the wheat of the farmers who lived in the remote southwestern corner of Oktibbeha. And a third water mill was on Red Bank Creek, just over the line in Choctaw County. This mill, operated by the Quinns, did the grinding for the people in the most westerly part of Oktibbeha.

The first church in the Southwestern district, which I can trace with any certainty, is the Wake Forest Baptist. It was established about 1840—the exact date is unknown. The church sent delegates to the Baptist Association held in Columbus in 1847. The delegates were Henry Sikes, Robert Quinn, and J. P. Woodson.

Another Baptist church was in the southern part of the county near what we call Craig Springs. This church was called Cypress Creek; it is still standing. It sent as delegates to the Baptist convention, held in Columbus in 1847, the following: W. Keen, Ingram Hudson, and J. D. Marbery. This church had twenty-five members, of whom one was a slave.

During this period at least three doctors lived in this district. Dr. Bogan, who settled here probably in the late thirties, lived about a mile north of the site of Sturgis, and practiced in that vicinity for many years. Dr. Bond settled about a mile south of Sturgis about 1840. And Dr. Derett was practicing in the western part of the county prior to 1848.

In the Central district, outside of Starkville, a good many farmers established homes during this period. To name all is impracticable. A few of the most prominent slave-owners were Dr. W. C. Gillespie, David Montgomery, W. H. Glenn, Jas. Boyd, David M. Kell, John Nelson, Bob Rundle, Dr. Hollinshed. Except for emphasis, it is superfluous to say that these men, together with the other farmers of the county, produced most of the wealth.

Some persons engaged in the "industries," however, added appreciably to the increasing prosperity. The owner of the Peck mill, five miles southwest of Starkville, continued to manufacture lumber. According to Wash Chiles, a Starkville negro who was born in 1840 and who lived until after 1920,

the Peck mill ran until 1849 or 1850. Nothing physical remains to show that the mill ever existed.

Starkville was long in recovering from the great panic. It actually decreased in size and importance between 1838 and 1848.

In 1839, the saloons began to have legal trouble. According to the correspondence of Clark, the Legislature had passed a law which, according to the Supreme Court, required tavern-keepers who wished to sell liquors to obtain saloon-licenses, and (according to Clark) permitted only tavern-keepers to sell liquors. Clark says, "The tippling houses in Starkville are going to continue to sell for the period covered by their licenses, and take the chances. I think the meaning of the law was that every tavern-keeper might, having secured a saloon license, sell intoxicants not to the general public, but only to his guests, *bona fide* travelers.

About this time the Hogan-Lampkin tavern went out of business. Shortly thereafter the Caldwell hotel, on the corner of Main and Jackson streets, began to serve the public. Taverns were no longer "taverns," but "inns" or "hotels."

The Reform Church Presbyterians had preaching in 1839, organized formally in 1840, and built a church-house in 1841. The building, a wooden structure, stood at the juncture of east Main street and the West Point road, people called it the Reform, the Seceder, or the United Presbyterian Church. The charter members were Margaret Flemming, Jane Wiseman, Elizabeth McKell, Hugh Montgomery, Robert Bell, William Bell, Sr., William Bell, Jr., and John and James Wiseman. The membership was twenty-five in 1842; and David Pressley was the pastor.

On July 28, 1839, the Starkville Baptists organized a church. The charter members were Fielding Oakley, Jane

Oakley, Anne Wilson, Amilia Keen, Britton and Matilda Valentine, Margaret West, John and Mary Thompson, Solomon Gale, William Dixon Perkins, George Owen, and Epsy (a slave belonging to Maj. Jno. Thompson). In 1842, the congregation built a house of worship on the site occupied by the present church. In 1847, the church had 66 white members and twenty-four slave.

The preachers for this church were J. C. Keeny (1839); W. W. Christman (1840); J. C. Keeny (1841-1845); S. McGowan (1846); and M. Bennett (1847).

The minutes of the Columbus Baptist Association held in 1847, show that the Starkville delegates were J. C. Keeny, W. H. Glenn, and W. H. Wilson.

In 1840 the Starkville Methodists secured their first pastor, E. R. Strickland. Their other ministers in this period were John J. Jones (1841); P. B. Bailey (1842-3); James Godfrey ( ); M. Nash ( ); T. J. Castle ( ), and W. Harrington. (John J. Jones later wrote the larger part of *History of Methodism in Alabama and Mississippi.*

In 1842, the Starkville Methodists built a two-story, brick church-house, with an upstairs gallery for slaves. After a few years the walls cracked, so the congregation tore down the building and erected a frame one.

For several years prior to 1848, a Miss Woodhouse, a woman of advanced age, taught school in a one-room, brick building, which stood about fifty yards west of the Methodist church. She was the sister of William Woodhouse, the only Revolutionary soldier buried in Starkville.

In 1847, John T. Freeman established in Starkville the first newspaper in the county, *The Starkville Whig.* It advocated Whig principles. Freemen had many scholarly attainments, and he was very aggressive and had no toleration for

those who opposed him. People generally thought him to be an infidel. After a short time he renamed his paper, calling it *The Broad Ax,* and taking as a motto for it, "Let the chips fall where they may." This motto characterizes his whole life. After a few years, he joined the Baptist church, and soon became one of the leading preachers of Mississippi, holding such important charges as Starkville and Corinth. He preached until almost eighty years old.

The lawyers in Starkville during this period, whom I have not previously named, were: David Ames, A. W. Sims, Charles F. Miller, A. W. Hines, Stephen D. Nash, and a man named Sullivan, usually referred to as "Old Red."

Sims was a young man. Hines, who had been a stockholder in the defunct Starkville Real Estate Bank, seems to have moved out of the county before 1848. Miller practiced in Starkville, from its beginning to the present time, perhaps no other has been more universally esteemed than was Miller. He was not a fluent speaker—was not more successful in practice than others— perhaps not so well intellectually endowed as some have been—but in some way he gripped the hearts of the people; they had confidence in his opinions and great confidence in his integrity as a man—they wanted him in their cases, even when they thought it expedient to secure more brilliant lawyers to assist him. Nash had practiced here in the middle 40's, but he did not settle in Starkville until 1847.

The following physicians were in full practice: A. M. Caruthers, J. W. Caldwell, C. P. Montgomery, W. H. Manier, and W. C. Bishop. Bishop was a "still" doctor; that is, he prepared his own medicines out of roots and herbs. Several young doctors, who had settled in Starkville, were not yet enjoying full practice; they were Nash, Rogers, Stovall, and Corley.

By the close of 1847, Starkville was smaller than it was ten years before. It had only a few stores and only one "grocery."

In the block on which the Walker building now stands, the only brick store building in town stood. Formerly it had housed the merchandise of Outlaw and Beverly; now it was vacant. The old community house apparently was gone.

In the next, or Court House block, there were several stores and shops. On the lot just east of the court house, Cushman and Tyler ran probably the largest store in town. Tyler claimed to be a nephew of President Tyler. Next door, where the W. W. Scales building is, John Billington had a general store. Next to this, a Jew named Marx ran a store in a small building, framed with clapboards, probably the last clapboard house in Starkville.

In the next block to the east, John Mattox ran a "grocery," where Puller's drug store is. Mattox sold family groceries, and also liquors. He sold liquor by the drink and probably by the gallon. Where the Security State Bank is, John Thornton operated a very small store and served the public otherwise as postmaster. Next was Gunn's saddle shop; and to the east of this was "Daddy Billy" Bell's shoe shop. Slaves were the shoemakers; Bell was a well-to-do man. About where Goodman's Rex Theatre stands, John M. Chiles operated the Caldwell Hotel and in connection with it a livery stable. And on the east corner of the block, Tony Cooper, a slave, operated a wood shop.

Across the street, about where Wier's Jewelry Store is, Frank Yearger ran a carriage shop. Just to the west John McGahey operated a blacksmith shop, doing most of the work himself. Where Weir's Drug Store is today, A. J. Maxwell (the circuit clerk) had a blacksmith shop, a slave doing the work. And where the Yeates (Starkville) Hardware Store is,

a man named Flinn had a small store. Just behind this, on the same block, Robt. A. Lampkin ran a livery stable.

In the block south of the courthouse, there were only two buildings. A man named Pearson had a carriage shop where the Mayor's office stands. And on the Philip Goodman lot, the calaboose was always ready for prisoners. Not a store was on this block.

About two hundred yards northwest of where James Ward gins our cotton, the Tanning Yard was located. It was operated by William Ward (not the old Government agent), Thomas Tolbert, and a man named Tyler. They did a big business. Hich-a-she-be-ha spring supplied the water necessary for tanning.

Ward lived in a brick house, on the lot where the C. R. Stark residence stands.

About two hundred yards southeast of Ward's residence, Alexander McFale had a brick yard.

CHAPTER V

PROSPERITY (1848-1860)

DURING the thirteen years immediately preceding the War between the States, Oktibbeha County, having recovered from the blight of the Panic of 1837, developed rapidly, and evinced by 1860 most of the characteristics we associate with the Old South.

The farm was the basis of all life—economic, social, religious, political. The farmer gave cast to thought and decided all matters of general interest. Nearly every man was a farmer. Even the doctors and the lawyers gave much time to farm interests; the merchant, the manufacturer, and the politician who had no farms—if such persons existed—comprised a very small part of the population. The growing of cotton was the supreme activity; and the raising of live-stock, corn, and oats were very important incidents thereto. The great majority of the whites were poor people who did their own work; a considerable minority, however, used slaves. Slave labor was the principal means to wealth, power, good living, and culture. The county was an agricultural aristocracy.

Naturally proponents of slave-landlordism occupied the most important offices.

In the State Senate, William R. Cannon was the representative of Oktibbeha and Chickasaw counties (then forming a district) from 1849 to 1850. From 1850 or '52 to 1856, R. G. Steele (of Chickasaw County) was senator. In 1856 John W. Rice became senator—he died in office. His successor, Charles

R. Jourdan, served from 1857 to possibly 1860. Jourdan lived in the extreme northeastern part of the county; he owned many acres, much of the land being in what is now Clay County; he became a lieutenant-colonel in the War between the States.

In the House of Representatives, S. A. Harrington was the able spokesman from 1848 to '50. He lived in the Southeastern district. His successor, William G. Barry, was a planter —big farmers were planters now. He was living in the middle-east part of the county. In the 40's he had practiced law in Columbus; but before his fortieth year, he retired to the plantation. His reputation as an orator was great. He was a partisan Democrat of the most uncompromising kind. Shortly before the War he moved back to Columbus; he favored secession, became a colonel in the 35th Mississippi regiment, served through the War, and later became a Democratic member of Congress. His successor, E. R. Burt, was a distinguished physician; he served in '54 and '55. Burt's successor came from the Northeastern district; young Robert Muldrow belonged to the large slave-holding class. He was a brother of H. L. Muldrow and the father of S. O. Muldrow, both of whom later served in the Legislature. Robert served in 1856 and '57.

When he stood for reelection, a contest arose. The Democrats supported Muldrow; the Whigs put up Samuel H. Daniel, a small farmer of the Southwest district. The contest provoked great interest. The big slave-holders generally supported Muldrow, but W. C. Gillespie and David Montgomery, two of the wealthiest and most influential planters, were not only Whigs, but personal opponents to Muldrow. With this support the Whigs, though the minority party, determined to win the election. Not only the candidates but their

followers canvassed the county closely. The Starkville paper, then under Whig management, employed a cartoonist. In the beginning of the contest, a cartoon represented the candidates as contestants in a race; Daniel was mounted on a mule, and Muldrow was seated in a two-horse buggy, a slave driving; Daniel was considerably behind Muldrow on the road marked "To Jackson." In later cartoons Daniel drew closer and closer to Muldrow. In the last picture, just before voting day, the contestants were close together; Daniel applying the whip to his mule, and Muldrow's driver whipping his horses to full speed. After the election, the final cartoon showed the finish—Daniel's mule nosing out Muldrow's horses. The result elated the Whigs. Dr. Gillespie presented Daniel with the finest suit of clothes the local tailor could make, and sent him to Jackson in his private carriage driven in state by a slave coachman. This was the last contest between Whigs and Democrats in the county.

In 1858, Dr. W. H. Manier, of the old Hebron neighborhood, succeeded Daniel. Manier was a prosperous physician and farmer.

Sheriffs: Moses F. Westbrook, of the eastern quarter of the county, who had become sheriff, as you probably remember in 1841, remained in office until 1857. His successor, William S. James, from the Southeastern district, remained in office for ten years, until removed by Reconstruction Governor Adelbert Ames.

The county treasurers between 1850 and '60 were Meredith Seal and Peter Critz.

Probate clerks: J. H. Embry succeeded Charles Dibrell in 1851, thus becoming our second clerk; he held the office two years. John M. Clark was clerk from 1855 to 1857, when he died; R. D. Clark and R. A. Lampkin served for a few days

each in '57. W. C. Bishop was clerk from 1857 to probably 1859. Bishop had the use of only one side, being partly paralyzed.

The circuit clerks were James P. Curry, 1852-3; Silas M. Clark, 1854-5; A. J. Maxwell, 1856 on into the 60's probably.

The circuit judges were Frank M. Rogers, William H. Harris, and James M. Ham. Rogers, a resident of Monroe County, resigned in 1853, after a seven-year tenure, to be the Whig candidate for governor. Though popular even among Democrats he lost the contest to McRae. Harris served as judge until 1858, when he accepted the appointment to the Supreme court. He was a resident of Columbus. Ham was a citizen of Kemper County when he was judge; later he moved to Meridian, where he died about 1895, a very old man.

During this period several young lawyers began to contest the field with the four attorneys here in 1847. Samuel Hollinshead came here about 1852; Joe L. Owen, about '55; Charles Sullivan about the same time; and Henry L. Muldrow began his practice about 1857. Owen died soon after his arrival. Hollinshead practiced in the county until he moved to Memphis about 1870; he died there in the epidemic of 1873. Sullivan, who later became head of the National Freedmen's Bureau, remained here until his death in 1881. Muldrow became successively district attorney, lieutenant colonel in the Confederate army, member of Congress, chancellor.

According to the Census of 1850, the population of the county was 9,171; the whites numbered 4,309; the slaves, 4,844; the free negroes, 20; the Indians, 0—though a few probably remained in the county.

The crops were as follows: corn, 5,479 bales of 400 lbs. each; corn, 389,796 bushels; oats, 24,124 bushels; wheat, 2,094

bushels; sweet potatoes, 66,490 bushels; Irish potatoes, 2,800 bushels.

The live stock: sheep, 2,733; hogs, 27,205.

Social institutions: Churches—Baptist, 11, value $4,450; Methodist, 6, value $1,895; Presbyterian, 4, value $4,600. Schools—all private, 26 teachers, 511 pupils (all white).

At the term of court in 1851, there were about fifty civil cases and approximately eighty-seven criminal cases on docket. This would be considered a large docket today. In proportion to population, cases then were more numerous than today.

The criminal cases were as follows:

Failure to keep highways in repair (against road overseers)	17
Assault and battery	15
Exhibiting deadly weapons in threatening manner	5
Grand larceny	5
Retailing whiskey	15
Gambling	20
Affrays	5
Disturbing worship	1
Disturbing an election	1
Assault to murder	1
Perjury	1
Altering mark of animal	1
Fire-hunting	1
Burglary	1
Malicious mischief	1
Receiving stolen property	1
Bigamy	1
Nuisance	1
Trading with slave	1

These indictments were not necessarily returned at that term of court; many were probably returned at an earlier term. The indictments returned in this June term were entered upon the minutes somewhat later. It is evident that the courts were then more deliberate than now. When a civil suit was brought, the defendant was allowed until the second term to get ready; and when the indictment was returned, it was usual for it to be entered upon the court minutes and for the District Attorney to request the Court to order a warrant for the arrest of the defendant returnable for the following term of court. If this process were pursued at present with our present population, few defendants indicted would ever be arrested unless they just preferred arrest to escape; the entry on the minutes would foreshadow arrest. In early days it was common only for juries to return indictments against persons charged with affrays, fights at public places or free-for-all fights characteristic of the rowdy element. I doubt if such an indictment has been returned in this county within the last forty years.

During the first half of this period, traffic on the Tombigbee River increased many fold; a number of fine steamboats plied between Columbus and Mobile, and a number of lighter vessels went up as far as Cotton Gin Port. The water, however, was unreliable; usually until late spring, the water was so low that the large steamboats could carry only small loads of cotton.

Our people were gratified to hear, even so early as 1850, that a railroad would extend northward from Mobile through this section to the Ohio River. This road was the Mobile and Ohio. To assist in building it, several counties voted taxes. Both the counties through which the road would pass and counties contiguous to them assisted in this way. Slave labor did most of the building; many of the larger slave-owners, too,

contracted to do the grading for a specified number of miles and receive in pay stock in the company. The road came forward slowly.

The farmers, however, went forward to meet it. Probably as early as 1851, some Oktibbeha farmers hauled their cotton by mules a hundred and fifty miles south to the site of Shubuta, then the northern terminus of the railroad. The next year the haul was shorter. Though grading had been done north to Crawford by the end of 1853, the rails were not laid until about 1855. The farmers continued their southward haul until 1857 when the road reached north of Artesia.

Five or six years before the War between the States, a good many persons thought that a railroad would pass in a northeasterly direction through Oktibbeha, touching Starkville. Stephen E. Nash was so sure that it would pass near his property about six miles west of Starkville that he moved out and built a fine house near the surveyed line. He expected a station to be built there and eventually a town. The road was never built.

Every beat of the county made progress during the period.

Beat 5 was probably the most prosperous. The fertile lands, supervised by farmers and planters, yielded a prosperity evinced not so much by mills and tanneries as by agricultural abundance and thoughtful living. The character of the people is reflected in their business, educational, and religious activities.

The old town Folsom was dead; but the new town Choctaw Agency had become prominent. In the middle 50's, this village enjoyed its greatest prosperity. The stage coaches were luxurious now; trips were frequent and the number of passengers was increasing steadily. In the eyes of the small boy, the stage-driver was a very important man, equal to both engineer and conductor of our modern railway conveyance. Henry

Kinard was the last driver on this stage route. He lived in Winston County; he was a good-natured and popular man.

As a trade center, Agency rivalled, perhaps exceeded, Starkville. It did not equal the county seat in number of stores, but surpassed it in volume of trade. Some of the storekeepers were John U. Perkins and Dr. J. B. Perkins; Gordon Alston; Admiral Warren; Hamilton and Baskerville; Perkins and James. The store of Baskerville and Company was unusually large, a two story building seventy or eighty feet long. The lower floor, divided lengthwise, contained two hall-like rooms, used for sales; the upper floor was for storage. Louis Jones had a brick-stack shop; Dan Jolly, a wood shop; and somebody, a tailor shop, where he cut and made fine suits; and Mistress Carpenter ran a millinery store. For a time some one ran a grocery, selling table-provisions and intoxicating liquors, but never maintaining a bar-room. Agency prospered until the advent of the Mobile and Ohio railroad seven miles east in the adjoining county; then it slowly declined. The last store closed thirty-five years ago. As a community center, the town was so important in the middle 50's that Jefferson Davis saw fit to speak there.

Quite early in this period, Mr. T. Frayson (S. R. Frierson?) pastor of the Presbyterian church (in Starkville?) taught a school for boys in the northeastern part of the Agency community. A little later a Miss Pressley had charge of this school; and then a Mr. Johnson, nicknamed "Polly" took the boys in hand. About 1854 Samuel E. Meek, afterwards a distinguished lawyer and author, began his career as teacher in this community. About 1857, A. D. Cooper was the teacher; in 1858-9 Walter Maneese taught here; and for a short time prior to the War, a man named Eastmond was the teacher.

At the Watt or later Dille place, Harriet, wife of Major

Watt, taught in 1866. And about this time, some one conducted a school at Red Acre, a mile north of where Sessums is.

In the early 50's James Caraway had a store on the Macon and Aberdeen road, east of the center of section 12, township 17, range 15. This place was called Caraway's Grocery.

In section 14, Bill Conner operated a "grocery" during the late 50's. This place bore the name Conner's Half Acre.

On Moore's Bluff, in section 23, about three-quarters of a mile east of Half Acre, Theophilus Harvey ran a store for several years; and some one had a blacksmith shop and a wood shop. Some of the older people today call this place Grab All.

During this period Salem church flourished. The pastors were C. S. McCloud ('49), Benj. Hodges ('50), J. T. Freeman ('51-2), C. M. Curry ('53-7), T. P. Montgomery ('57-73). The clerks were S. H. Alston ('54-7), Y. J. Harrington ('58), S. H. Alston ('59-60).

About 1854 the Baptists in the southeastern corner of the beat organized Bethesda church; and about the same time, and on the Coffeeville road a little northwest of Bethesda, the Methodists built the Browning church.

In 1858 and on the Robinson Road, the Cumberland Presbyterians built Vernon church. This building stood in section 17, on the site of the present building.

About the beginning of this period John G. Nash sold a third interest in the Lincecum water mill on Noxubee to Tobias Furr. They continued to operate it until about 1850. Then they sold it to Howard Lincecum, who had been a soldier in the Mexican War. Lincecum ran the mill until approximately 1860. Then he abandoned it; the building had become dangerous, and people had almost quit growing wheat.

About 1858, John M. B. Nash sold the other water mill, two miles west of the Lincecum mill, to Dr. Bushrod White.

This mill is still known to our older settlers as the White Mill.

The physicians in this beat during this period were C. W. Jordan, J. B. Perkins, E. R. Burt, and J. G. Carroll. Burt moved to Macon in 1857; later he became auditor of Mississippi; in the War, he was colonel in the 43rd Mississippi regiment; he was killed in the battle of Leesburg. Perkins was the son of Joseph Perkins whom I have mentioned; he began his medical practice in 1852 and continued actively in it until 1892 when he moved to Starkville where he died in 1899. Carroll came from Carrollton, Alabama, in 1857, and practiced in the Choctaw Agency community until 1894; then he moved to Starkville, where he died in 1905.

Other prominent persons were Spencer A. Harrington, Robert Spencer, Dossey A. Outlaw, John W. Rice, and S. D. Sessums.

Beat 2 (the Northeastern) has an interesting history in this period.

About 1850 a man named Flowers had a water mill on Sand Creek, in section 21.

Near the site of Osborn there were three churches. The Methodist church was on the Mayhew road, called County Line. To the southwest, about the center of section 16, stood the Baptist church. And a little to the southeast of this was the Presbyterian church house. All these buildings have disappeared.

In 1855, not far from new Mayhew, Joseph Randolph shot to death his brother-in-law, Bob Winfield. The killing took place in Lowndes County, on the Columbus road. The trial therefore took place in Columbus, though both men were residents of Oktibbeha County. Randolph was acquitted.

At one time or another in this period several physicians lived and practiced in beat 2. Perhaps the earliest of them were

Pearson Smith and his brother. They lived in what we know as the Osborn community. Both died about 1857, past middle age. Three doctors practiced in our Hickory Grove community. Dr. Glisson practiced there from about 1850 to 1860 or a little later, when he moved to Texas. Dr. R. P. Pearson served the community from 1857 to approximately 1870, when he moved to Starkville. And Dr. Glenn Montgomery practiced from 1858 to 1880, when he too moved to Starkville.

Several of the prominent citizens of this beat were Cecil Bardwell, David Montgomery, John Hampton Gay, and M. S. Westbrook, all of whom were slave-holders and farmers.

About 1850 Hifay Pearson built a water mill on Trim Cane, a quarter of a mile above the intersection of the Starkville-Houston road with the creek. The mill operated until about 1861.

In beat 3 (Northwestern district), the people between 1850 and 1860 gave most attention to farming, as they do now; a good many, however, devoted much time to other activities.

About 1851 Horatio Cushman, son of the missionary, established Cushman Academy seven or eight miles northwest of Starkville, on the Greensboro road. This was both a day and a boarding school. After running it for two or three years, Cushman moved to Starkville.

In the Bell School House community, two physicians lived. Dr. John B. Sanders settled there about 1853; and Dr. Jeff Hale practiced there for seven years immediately before his death in the late 50's.

In this community the first homicide in beat 2 occurred about 1855. Richard Freeland killed Mistress Tom Masters at a dance. He claimed the shot was accidental. He was indicted for involuntary manslaughter—killing through criminal carelessness. Having finally pleaded guilty, he accepted a

short sentence in the county jail. Upon the outbreak of the War, he volunteered his services to the Confederacy. A few months later, lightning struck a stand of arms near him and killed him.

About 1856, near Silom (now in Clay County), a slave, Hampton, killed his overseer. This was the first case in the history of Oktibbeha in which a slave killed a white man. It aroused widespread interest. Distinguished talent represented both prosecution and defense. The prosecuting or district attorney was Isham G. Harris, a very forcible man. The defense lawyers were Harrison and Cruso, distinguished partners from Columbus, employed by the owner of the slave. Their fee was two-fold: a cash sum and the ownership of the slave in case they secured his acquittal. Two special venires were drawn at each of two terms of court. Finally the case was tried, and the slave was convicted; he was hanged by Sheriff James in 1857. This was the first death penalty inflicted by the Court in this county.

I believe this homicide was merely manslaughter. A gentleman who attended the trial gave me many years later the evidence as he remembered it. The facts, as he remembered them, would not carry the death penalty today. Under like circumstances, a modern jury would either give a number of years or acquittal.

In the 50's Zach Carroll established a tannery near Clark's mill, in section 5, township 19, range 13. He operated the tannery until 1878 or '79. As an adjunct to the yard, he ran a boot-shop at Double Springs.

At Double Springs, the following, besides Carroll, had stores: Richardson and Brothers, who sold to Ben Storey in '56 or '57, who in turn sold to Judge J. L. Hopkins and Dr. Hill

about '60; Jim Gillespie; H. A. McCreight, and Joe Ramsey in 1859.

Dr. Derett continued his medical practice in this community until 1860; then, as he was a Mormon, he sold his property and moved out to Utah. Dr. White remained here until 1855. Then Dr. Quinn began his practice, which lasted only two or three years. Dr. J. R. McMullen settled here about 1857; he practiced until his death in 1906. About 1858 Dr. Randle settled in the community, and, except for an interim during the war, he practiced here until 1867.

In 1858, Dr. Cooper, who had bought Derett's holdings about five miles south of Double Springs, began a practice which lasted until his death in 1874. And in this same general community, Dr. McHughes (or Mac Hugh) practiced from 1859 to 1863.

During the 50's beat 4 made progress.

About 1850 Roderick Green and Dossey A. Outlaw erected a manufacturing plant about a mile southeast of Longview, a bit off the Green-Outlaw road. The plant consisted of a saw mill, a grist and flour mill, and a tannery. It was unique in this: it used the first steam engine in the county. The novelty was a great advertisement. No longer did the farmers of this community have to go the long trip to Noxubee River to have their wheat ground. The mill did a great business. In 1863, Grierson's Yankee raiders burned the plant.

Outlaw, as we know, was a landed capitalist of beat 5; Green was a prosperous business man of beat 4. The Green-Outlaw road connected the mill with Outlaw's residence almost ten miles due east.

In 1852 or '53 James Steele founded Steelville, about three miles east of the Choctaw county line and four miles south of Double Springs. He erected a large mercantile house and a

saw mill, installing a steam engine—the second in the county. He secured the establishment of a postoffice; and he or somebody else opened a wood shop and a blacksmith shop. The community established the Big Creek Methodist church, and organized a Masonic Lodge which had its meetings upstairs over Steele's store. The store and the mill attracted customers from considerable distances, and did a profitable business. After a few years, Steele sold his mercantile business to Dotson; then Dotson sold to Peter Quinn, who operated the store until the War, when it was burned. The Masonic Lodge eventually moved to Bradley, where it is a live organization today.

In 1854, the village, Whitefield, sprang up. It was in section 9, township 17, range 12, on the land formerly owned by the half-breed Louis White. It bore the name of the Indian. A man named Smith, who now owned most of the county thereabouts, built the first house. As builder and minister, Smith, with the help of his neighbors erected a church-house —probably the Wake Forest. Prior to the War, the town never had more than one or two stores. It had, however, from its founding to its death in 1884 a postoffice. During all this time, J. M. Cain and Hiram Thompson ran a blacksmith shop and a wood shop.

Several physicians lived at Whitefield. In 1853, Dr. W. J. Barron moved to Ackerman. Dr. W. W. Edwards was an active physician. Dr. Watson was here in the middle 50's; and Dr. Josiah Walker began his practice here, I think, before the end of the decade.

Hardly a half-mile north of Whitefield, John Long in the early 50's established a tanning yard. This or another was operated by the Kemp family as late as 1905. Long was the

grandfather of our present (1923) chancery clerk and of our Dr. B. F. Long.

About 1855 Harvey Smith established a tannery in section 8, township 18, range 12. After a year, he sold it to Joseph McIlwain and Joe McReynolds. McReynolds ran it until 1890, but did little business after 1865.

In 1859 or '60 the farmers five miles northeast of Whitefield established the Pleasant Ridge Baptist church; the churchhouse standing about a mile north of the site of Bradley.

In beat 1, both country and town were prosperous.

Dr. W. C. Gillespie, Randle, Hollinshead, David Montgomery, and Wm. H. Glenn were prominent landlords.

In 1848, the people of Starkville were slowly recovering from the effects of the panic ten years before; in 1850 the population was possibly 100, and the town grew slowly until the War.

Prior to 1850, James Roseman, a New Englander, established a school on the lot now occupied by the residence of the Hon. W. W. Magruder; he taught at this place until 1854. Prior to the War, nearly all our teachers came from the New England states.

The lawyers and the doctors who were here in the 40's continued their practice in the 50's. One new physician had entered the field, Dr. Weston.

The religious denominations remained the same—Methodist, Baptist and Presbyterian. At some time in this period Fly M. Emerson was the Methodist preacher. In 1848-9, C. S. McCloud was the Baptist minister; in 1850, J. C. Keeny; in 1851-2, J. T. Freeman; for six months before his death in 1853, M. C. Curry; in 1854, T. M. Montgomery; in 1855, S. Humphries; in 1856, J. C. Keeny; in 1857 on for twenty-three years, T. G. Sellers. I do not know who was the minister of the U. S.

Presbyterian church from 1846 to 1855; but from 1855 on for many years, S. R. Frierson was the pastor. Of the "Reform" Presbyterians, David Pressley remained minister from 1841 to 1885.

In 1853 or '54, the U. S. Presbyterians built a church-house in classic Greek architecture, on Main street (where the present church stands.)

About 1850, Robert Owen—who called himself Robert Burns—built the Burns Hotel, just west of where the Methodist parsonage now stands, fronting on Lampkin street; and to the east of the hotel he opened a livery stable. It is said that Burns had killed a man in the Northwest, probably in the new state of Idaho, and fleeing had settled here under an alias. In 1856 Stovall, a young physician boarding at the hotel, had a disagreement with Burns over the payment of a board bill, and Burns gave Stovall a severe beating. A few days later, on Sunday afternoon, Dr. Stovall met Burns in Washington street, about 150 feet south of the site of Blumenfeld and Fried's store, and shot him to death. Little effort was made to arrest Stovall, for people generally regarded Burns as a very dangerous and desperate man. Stovall left the county in very leisurely manner and, it is said, went to California. After some years, Stovall, desiring to return to Mississippi, sought a pardon of the Governor of Mississippi, who under the law of the time had the right to pardon one for a certain offense even before trial and conviction. Finally, in the days of reconstruction, through the efforts of Charles A. Sullivan, Stovall secured the pardon; but he never returned to Oktibbeha County.

In 1852 the State Legislature incorporated Starkville for the second time. The new charter makes no reference to the charter of 1837.

In this year, somebody started a newspaper, *The Advocate*.

In his diary, the lawyer, Stephen D. Nash, says he advertised in this paper. Wash Chiles, then a hotel servant twelve years old, says he cannot recall the paper.

About 1854, Horatio Cushman, who had abandoned Cushman Academy northwest of Starkville, moved to town and formed a partnership with James Roseman. The partners opened the Starkville Academy in the old Rett Maxwell residence (which stood on the hill above the Borden Milk Condensery—Eds.) They employed several teachers. Miss Doney (from New England) had charge of the music department, at a salary of $200.00 a year and free board. I have seen the contract, in which the details of compensation and employment are set forth. After two years Roseman and Cushman had a personal difficulty. They stopped speaking, dissolved partnership, and Roseman returned to the North.

About three years later, Dr. S. W. Webb became head of the school. He was a Baptist minister. Later he became quite distinguished, and served for a number of years as president of Mississippi College at Clinton. After Webb's tenure, Fred Beall, a young lawyer, took the school in hand. He remained in Starkville a good many years. He is now (1923) at the age of ninety actively practicing law in Washington, D. C.

A year or two before the War, Yeates published in Starkville a paper called *State's Rights,* I believe.

Wash Chiles says that J. H. Harrington was mayor of Starkville immediately before the War. I think he is right: the town-charter required that the mayor be an elected person —Harrington was an elected officer; a justice of the peace presided as mayor—Harrington was a justice.

Though Starkville enjoyed legal and business importance in 1860, it was a small place. Its population must have been smaller than that of Longview today. The number of people

does not appear in the United States Census of 1860. In fact, the name of the town is not among those of villages having more than 200 persons. Most of the lawyers and merchants lived outside the town-limits. The population may have been about 150.

The county however had two-thirds as many people as it has today. To be specific, the population was as follows, all indicated as living in the country:

Total, 12,977. Whites, 5,171; Slaves, 7,631 (Negro, 7,092; Mulatto, 539); Free Negroes, 18; others, not indicated, 157.

Those not specified must have been Indians. Mr. Olympus Lincecum has told me that he played with Indian children down on Noxubee when he was a boy—he was born in 1850.

CHAPTER VI

MASTER AND SLAVE

WARM climate, fertile soil, and cheap land have always been essential to profitable cotton production. These essentials obtained in the Oktibbeha country, so rumor reported through the South and elsewhere. Slave owners looked with favor on this new country. As early as 1831, probably even earlier, a few slave holders were settled here; after then, slave masters increased so rapidly in number and in power that long before 1860 they controlled most of the fertile land in the county. A few settled in the western and north-central parts; and some settled near Starkville; but the majority, both large holders and small, settled in the most eastern quarter, that is, in range 15. For at least thirty-five years, the slave masters dominated the county—supervised most of the wealth, directed the political and social activities, and enjoyed eminent class distinction.

Slave dealers early found their way into the county, bringing their human merchandise to market. These dealers were speculators, who having secured the slaves usually in Virginia where slave prices were low, sold them at considerable profit to the Mississippi farmers.

The trade was tremendously lucrative. Many of the speculators became very rich, yet failed to become members of the social aristocracy. The southern slave master made a shade of distinction between the dealer in human chattels and the dealer in horses or mules; between the slave speculator and the

dealer in shoes and cloth; between the speculator and the farmer. Though intensely jealous of the institution of slavery, which was legal and right in his eyes, the southern master looked somewhat askance at slave speculation. Money made in buying and selling human beings, though slaves, was not quite so good as money made otherwise.

The price of slaves varied with economic conditions and with the nature of the slaves. The price of a woman slave was, as a rule, less than that of a man. Good house servants were much in demand; the price was high. A young able bodied man, a field hand, was easily worth $1,000; a good carpenter or blacksmith, $1,500, and sometimes more.

The speculators came down the Robinson Road and camped at Folsom and later at Agency. They used tents for sheltering the negroes. They sent notice of their arrival to the farmers and planters for miles around. They remained until they either had sold all the slaves or enough to supply present demands. If they had sold out, they returned to Virginia for a new gang; if not, they moved on to another market. Usually on the first day of a circuit court session, the dealers with their negroes would arrive at Starkville. Frequently they camped on Lafayette street, about a hundred yards south of the Baptist church.

These slaves were in good spirits. They looked forward happily to the sale. Each regarded it an honor to be the first sold, and a reflection upon him to be among the last disposed of. The slave thought it a compliment to be eagerly purchased.

From early times a few "free" negroes lived in the county. In 1860 about eighteen free darkies were here. They were free only in a limited sense—they owned their own time and could work or not, as they saw fit; each, however, was bound

to a white guardian or agent, whom he consulted on all matters of importance. A free negro lived with Charles Dibrell; and several free negroes worked on William Walker's place on Sand Creek. An old couple, London and wife, who had been free for at least twenty years, lived about a half mile north of the site of A. and M. College. Some of their children, however, were slaves, having been born prior to the emancipation of the parents.

As the rule slave owners were men of sense. As a business proposition they fed their slaves well and clothed them comfortably; the masters knew that a well-fed negro could do more work than an underfed one. And they looked closely after the health of the slave, for he was too valuable to lose. Most owners were naturally kind; and the slaves were very fond of them.

Most slaves were very loyal to their owner and his family. There was no danger in the master's leaving home, even for an extended time, and entrusting the safety of his family to no one except his slaves. Occasionally there was a rebellious slave, an incorrigible. When the master discovered this negro's character, he usually sold him to some slave-dealer who carried him to Louisiana and resold him. Rarely was a slave vicious. One of this sort belonged to J. T. Hollinshead. The negro attempted to break into a house where an unprotected white woman was sleeping, with the intention of rape. A Lynch court tried and convicted him, and hanged him. The scene of the hanging was on the side of the Robinson Road, about three hundred yards from the center of section 10, township 17, range 15. The incident occurred about the beginning of the War.

Of course, the masters had to control and correct their slaves. The small owners or the overseers of the landlords

inflicted punishment for minor offenses; almost invariably they whipped the guilty slave, the severity of punishment depending on the degree of guilt. Usually the floggings were light; but sometimes they were very severe. The State undertook to protect the slaves from extreme punishment. In one case, of which we have record, the grand jury indicted a resident of the Northeastern district for whipping a slave to death. Moreover, the State reserved to itself the right to try slaves for murder and other capital offenses; thus it proceeded, as we have seen, against the slave Hampton of the Northwest district who killed his overseer in 1856.

Most owners of thirty or more slaves had overseers. Some overseers occasionally were cruel or too exacting of the slaves. Hard task-masters fell under the watchful eye of the humane landlords. I know of a case in which the master discharged a cruel or inconsiderate overseer. The son of the slave-owner told me the facts years later; and I knew the former overseer well. When discharged, an overseer had trouble in finding another place.

Several significant rules applied to slaves. First, most masters prohibited their slaves from owning property of any kind. There were exceptions. Major John Thompson allowed some slaves to own horses, cattle, and hogs in their own right, and gave them many liberties not usually accorded slaves. His negroes were often referred to as "free negroes." Again, it was against the law for a white man to trade with slaves; and slaves were forbidden to trade with one another. Further, masters generally kept their slaves from learning to read; a few owners, it is true, encouraged their negroes to read that they might study, especially the Bible. But all slave-owners watchfully kept from their negroes, whenever possible, phamplets and papers by Northern Abolitionists. Finally, the

slaves must not assemble at any public gathering, unless the owner or overseer were present; and they must not leave the plantation, even to visit friends on a neighboring place, without a written permit from owner or overseer. In the opinion of the landlord, these restrictions were necessary for the maintenance and perpetuation of slavery.

To enforce these rules, especially the law against absence from the plantation without permit, the board of police appointed patrols, called Pat-rol-ers. Usually a patrol served for only a month at a time and rode at night over only a few square miles to see that all slaves were in the quarters. Any slave away from home without permit received a flogging. From the earliest times probably, other men, using trained "nigger" dogs, tracked and caught runaway slaves. The runaway usually hid in the woods, hoping to escape from the country ultimately; at night other slaves would bring food to him. Not many slaves managed by their masters ran away. I can remember no further back than 1863; but I recall seeing one of these "nigger" hunters, in 1864, with his dogs taking a runaway back to his master. The dogs were hounds, but some were vicious; and at least one had bitten the slave severely, but not seriously, in several places on his arms.

Though the law did not recognize marriage between slaves as legal, people generally recognized the marital relation. When the owner died or could not pay his debts and slaves had to be sold, effort was made to keep the slave family together either by selling all to one buyer or to persons who lived in the same vicinity. In some cases, separation of the slave families was necessary.

The slave estimated a white man less by his moral and religious character than by his ownership of slaves. He thought highly of the owner of many slaves. He despised the

"poor white men," whom he called "Brickrams" when talking to other slaves, although *brickra* (negro dialect) suggests "good" and "strong." Even today the free negroes in a measure hold this false idea of one's worth; they have not the proper respect for the white man who they think is poor. In slavery times, the negro thought the white man who worked in the field for his living was poor or base; and even in our day, the free negroes hold somewhat the same opinion.

As the slaves had no property, they had no church-houses or church organizations of their own. Many of them, however, were members of their masters' churches. They attended services with the whites They did not sit with the white folks. Most of the church-houses had upstairs galleries for the use of the slaves. All the Starkville churches had these galleries. Some of the country churches had partitions to separate the races. Bethesda church, of which my mother was a member, had a wall about four feet high between the slaves and the whites; but both races could easily see the preacher in the pulpit.

The slaves, who outnumbered the whites in 1861, comprised the larger part of the church-membership. For example, the Baptists reported to the Columbus Association that year the following enrollment: at Mayhew Prairie—slaves, 142; whites, 104; at Salem—slaves, 187; whites, 99; at Bethesda—slaves 49; whites, 46; Starkville—slaves, 45; whites, 105; total of slaves, 523; whites, 354.

No complete list of the slave-holders of the county is in existence. Possibly two hundred men owned one or more slaves. The following list, though probably incorrect in some details, will indicate in some measure the domicile and power of the slave-master.

Range	Twp.	Date	Sec.	Slave-Owner	Sec.	Slave-Owner
12	17?	1835?	27?	Thos. Davis		
13	19?	1840?	36?	B. L. Cromwell		
14	18	1832?	3	W. C. Gillespie	36?	Robt. A. Lampkin
			10	"Dad" Billie Bell		
			10	Lanier Bell		
	19	1837	35	D. M. Montgomery	23	Thos. Hollinshead
			27	W. H. Glenn		
			23	John Thompson		
		1857	6	J. J. Mhoon		
15	17	1830?	36	Grabel Lincecum		
		1832	?	A. C. Keeton		
		1834	?	James McAlee	9	William Shaw
			16	N. J. Shaw	25	Percival Halbert
		1836	?	James Jones	9	John Sellman
			18	J. L. Edmunds	20	Josiah and John Skinner
		1837	11	Archibald Moore	16	Church Carpenter
			17	J. J. Shaw	27	Green Stallings
		1838	18	Bryce M. Moore	24	A. C. Halbert
			25	John and Barbell Deerbrook	35	Elijah Garten
		1839	?	John McGee	4	Spencer A. Harrington
		1840	6	John T. Thompson	11	Thos. J. Moore
		1841	25	William Brooks		
		1842	18	Ben H. Rice	35	Eli Stallings
		1843	9	Bryce Moore	14	John Hingman
			18	John Nail		
		1845	22	Elisha Petty		
		1846	35	Duke Stallings		
		1847	6	Capt. J. S. Rice		
		1850	26	Dr. E. R. Burt	8	T. J. Carroll
		1851	6	Capt. John W. Rice		
15	18	1832?	31	D. A. Outlaw	34	R. A. Lampkin
		1833	17	J. N. Frederick	35	James Hogan
		1834	2	James Copeland	5	Hugh Montgomery
			5	Thomas Renfrow	17	Seaborn Middlebrook
		1835	2	James King	2	David Reese
			27	Greenville Bray	28	Thomas Tabb
			33	Henry Tabb	13	Joseph Perkins
		1836	6	Jas. L. Boyd	17	Wm. S. Bray

Range	Twp.	Date	Sec.	Slave-Owner		
		1837	3	Thos. Moore	30	Robt. H. Spencer, Jr.
		1838	23	Alfred Perkins	15	Isaiah D. Sessums
		1840	24	Young Saxon		
		1841	1	Reason Moore	1	William Copeland
			1	Henry Hodnett	17	David McKell
		1842	19	John Nelson		
		1844	5	Wm. H. Cross	2	John H. Gay
		1845	?	Thomas Carr		
		1847	5	Robert Morse	6	James McKell
			13	David Askew		
		1848	4	Columbus Reese	10	M. S. Westbrook
		1851	20	Charles Watt	23	John Alston
		1852?	32	Robt. H. Spencer, Jr.		
		1854	1	William Thompson	1	Wiley Copeland
		1855	1	Perry Perkins	1	Daniel Marberry
			6	Cecil Bardwell	17	R. N. Ellis
			23	Reuben Daughty		
		1857	18	Thomas Carr		
		1858	3	W. T. Montgomery	10	S. D. Sessums
		1859	1	E. U. Glancy	6	Robt. Spencer, Jr.
		1860	1	David Marberry	3	Thos. Gladney
			17	Joe E. Joyner		
19		1834	18	Short Long	32	Britton Valentine
		1835	?	John Ballard	?	Jno. W. Velvin
			1?	Alexander Culpepper		
		1836	?	William Perry	34	Noah Eaves
		1837?	6	James McDowell	1	Wm. R. Cannon
		1844	1	William Suggs	2	John T. Montgomery
		1847	2	Martin Speed		
		1848	6	Johnson Perry		
		1849	4	J. H. Suggs		
		1850	4	David F. Montgomery		
		1852	2	Jas. W. Eaves		
		1853	3	S. C. Muldrow	6	George Perry
		1856	21	Wm. Page	16	John J. Culpepper
		1857	5	Jno. P. Randolph	6	Paul Valentine
			6	J. J. Mhoon		

Most of these men, like most of the slaveholders elsewhere, owned only a few slaves each. Many a master had only one slave, probably a house-servant; the average master in Oktibbeha owned probably fewer than twenty negroes of all ages; the master of thirty to fifty slaves—that is of four to six families—was in very good circumstances; and a man who owned a hundred or more negroes was, in county opinion, very wealthy.

The large slave-holders of course had plantations. By 1855 each plantation was almost independent economically. The master's house, indeed the master himself, was the center of all life and activity. Near at hand were the commodious, though perhaps inexpensive, barns and cribs; the grist mill, operated by horse-power; the gin, likewise operated by horse-power; the blacksmith- and wood-shops; and the smoke house. On several "places" one may see some remains of the antebellum gins; and the smoke-houses in which hung sides, shoulders, hams, and strings of sausage, smoked over hickory fires—the year's meat supply for "white-folks" and slaves. Perhaps a quarter of a mile from the master's house stood the slave "quarters"—substantial houses of rough lumber, in parallel rows on a plantation road. The brick-kiln was almost as essential to the plantation as slaves and land. Many acres of woodland supplied timber from which the slave carpenters sawed the lumber requisite to the plantation and all the fuel for both the "big house" and the "quarters"; the fertile land near the house produced vegetables and fruits, the rich hill-slopes grew the cotton and the long bottoms grew great abundance of corn.

Some of the largest landlords in the county were Dossey A. Outlaw, Robert H. Spencer, Sr., Capt. John W. Rice, John Hampton Gay, and W. R. Cannon—in range 14; Dr. W. C.

Gillespie, Major John Thompson, and David Montgomery—in range 14; Patrick Cromwell—in ranges 13 and 15; and Thomas Lewis—in range 12.

Dossey A. Outlaw probably settled in the county before it was organized. I do not know where he first located. He came from Carolina; he was a member of the first board of police; after the middle 30's he lived in range 15, township 17, section 31; he was instrumental in organizing the Salem Baptist church in 1835; he erected his residence, still standing, about 1840; he acquired several thousand acres and about 150 slaves; in partnership with Roderick Green he built and operated the first steam mill in the county, a saw mill southeast of our Longview. He was the father of Dossey W. Outlaw, Mrs. Robert Spencer, Jr, Mrs. Outlaw-Wiggs, and Mrs. Harvey, all of whom are dead.

Robert H. Spencer, Sr., also probably entered the county before its organization; according to early records, he purchased property here prior to 1834. Apparently he died in 1842. I have not found many details about him. His residence however, was near Catawba Creek, in section 19. He was the father of Robert H., Jr. Unquestionably he owned many slaves and much land. Tradition has it that he left the most valuable estate in beat 5.

John W. Rice was a son of Capt. John S. Rice, a South Carolinian, who in 1847 bought the Judge Thompson place in beat 5. After his graduation at Columbia, the son John resided principally in Talledega and Mobile. He had Oktibbeha interests as early as 1842. He was a captain in the Mexican War. In '51, he acquired the Oktibbeha holdings of his father, his brother Ben, and several others persons; then, with his bride (Augusta Hopkins of Mobile), he spent a year in Europe, Africa, and Asia. He was our senator at the time of his death

in '57. He left two children—Arthur H. and Nannie H.—and in Oktibbeha County an estate of 5,000 acres and 200 slaves.

John Hampton Gay, a native of South Carolina but a resident for some time of Monroe County, Mississippi, settled about 1844 on Sand Creek, section 2, township 18, range 15. The substantial hewn-log residence in which his children and some of his grandchildren were born, stood until recently when fire destroyed it. Gay eventually owned 2,200 acres of land and about 100 slaves. After the War, Gay moved to Texas. The old plantation is still known as the Gay place Two of his children were Mrs. Warren of Tennessee and Charles E. Gay; both are dead.

Dr. W. C. Gillespie, like Outlaw, probably settled in the county prior to its organization. In the middle 30's he was living a mile south of Starkville on the west side of the Louisville road. He was a practicing physician for many years; and he was also one of the greatest planters in the county. In 1850 he erected the large house, still standing, on the east side of the road. He had possibly 200 slaves and several thousand acres of land in various parts of the county. People generally considered him the wealthiest man in Oktibbeha. He was a Whig. He was the father of the late W. C. Gillespie.

Major John Thompson and David Montgomery—each had married the other's sister—came to Oktibbeha in 1837; and William H. Glenn, Thompson's son-in-law, and probably other men of the family, came with them. From South Carolina, where their wives and children and many slaves remained temporarily, these men brought some skilled slave-laborers, whom they used in building temporary residences, cabins, and barns, and in clearing up land. The next year the families, even the grown children, and the body of slaves came to the new home.

Thompson settled a little over three miles north of Starkville and about the same distance from Trim Cane Creek He became very prominent, figured in many land-sales, operated a great plantation, started the shipping of cotton by the waters of Trim Cane to the Tombigbee. He had more slaves than any other permanent resident of the county, about 300.

Glenn settled a mile nearer Starkville and a mile west of the present West Point road. In 1863 he owned about 800 acres, and lost through emancipation 69 slaves. Two children are still living: Mr. J. A. (Doff) Glenn, in his eighty-fourth year and Mrs. (Sally) William B. Montgomery, in her eighty-ninth year.

David Montgomery lived a mile still nearer Starkville, in the suburbs. His first residence was just east of the West Point road. He owned many hundreds of acres and at least 250 slaves. In 1842-3, he represented the county in the lower house of the Legislature. His daughter Margaret married Cecil (son of Araunah) Bardwell.

Montgomery had some slaves who were expert carpenters; he used them in building residences for other prominent citizens.

Thomas Lewis was a very early settler in the Southwestern district. He lived on Golden Horn Creek about three miles southeast of Sturgis. I have found few facts about him. He was the owner of a good deal of land and was the largest slave-holder in the western half of the county. "All the country down there," says Mr. MacIllwain, "was full of his slaves." Some of his descendants live in the county.

As the slave masters grew in wealth, they built better residences and furnished them more and more tastefully. They did not depend on the saw mills for lumber; the more wealthy

had their slaves cut huge sills from heart oak or cypress, and with cross cut saws make joists, rafters, and planks from the most durable of native woods. The large timbers of the "mansion," as indeed of the overseers' houses and the slaves' cabins, are fastened together not by nails, but by oak pegs. Usually only the exposed side of the planking is dressed, the hand-plane being used. Most of the flooring is six inches wide. The weatherboarding of at least two houses is beaded. The great chimneys and pillars or foundations are of bricks made on the plantations by trained slaves under the eye of the masters or the overseers. In all the mansions, the master used a plaster, containing horse-hair or hogbristles, which, where protected, is almost uncracked to this day. The door-locks are large; the knobs, small and of brass; the keys, large and heavy. After more than eighty years, these houses, with one or two exceptions, need only superficial repairs or perhaps modern conveniences; the sills, framework, brick, weatherboarding, and in a few cases, as I have said, the plastering are thoroughly good still.

The two oldest mansions are in beat 5. The older of these is the Outlaw house, built in 1840 by Dossey A. Outlaw, and occupied now by his grandson Dossey W. Outlaw. In remodeling the interior some years ago, the grandson laid a new floor over the somewhat worn original planking. Wonderful to us—the original flooring, hewn on the bottom side and planed on the exposed, is heart walnut—I have seen it. The weatherboarding is cypress, beaded. The colonial doorway and the mantels in the two front rooms are carved, the work of a slave-convict in chains, named Cooper. No other old door-frame and transom in the county equals this in intricacy and delicacy of design and execution.

The Rice house dates to about 1842. Judge John Thompson, who married a Shaw, built it, and in 1847 sold it to Capt. John S. Rice, great-grand-father of the present owner, Capt. Arthur H. Rice. Less roomy than many of the old residences, this house is one of the purest examples of the colonial farm residence in the county. Only the eye of the skilled carpenter or artist will detect at first glance the excellent workmanship of the builder. From the middle of the front roof, a portico roof extends over upper and lower porches. Two small, fluted columns support the upper porch from which two similar columns rise to support the "gallery" roof. Within the lower hall, a stairway, with Bullfinch decoration, leads by double-turn to the upper hall. The mantels of the two lower front rooms are the carved work of the convict slave, Cooper. The interior fittings of the house were originally as nice as those of fine furniture.

Five miles nearer to Crawford stands the Carpenter residence. About 1850 Churchill Carpenter erected this house, the form and setting of which suggest "hominess" and welcome. Elms and oaks cast a refreshing shade on the upper story and on roof and floor of the roomy porch which extends across the front of the lower story. Six circular columns support the porch roof. In structure, the main part of the house remains just as it was more than three-quarters of a century ago; the original back room and porch have given place to more convenient parts. The weatherboarding, sills, flooring, stairway—the present owner, R. L. Carpenter tells me—are just as sound as they were when cut from heart timber many years before his birth.

The antebellum residence of Dr. Louis Creigler, Sr., was three miles south of Carpenter's house. Creigler's residence was a beautiful one-story building with commodious front porch.

Fire destroyed it recently. The antebellum Halbert residence, still standing, is a charming one-story house about a mile west of the Creigler site. Halbert's daughter, now nearly ninety, lives amid the delightful physical surroundings of her childhood. Two other old houses that many have seen are the Creigler house and the John Stiles house near the Crawford-Sessums road. This Creigler house, originally owned by a Halbert, probably postdates the War; the design indicates this. The Stiles residence was built in 1868.

Several houses that deserve special mention are in the Starkville district. Unquestionably the David M. Montgomery residence, built in 1843, is more nearly a mansion than any other in the county. It is a copy of a two-story English house of eighteenth century design. The walls of the lower story are brick covered by a time-defying cement; those of the upper are wood. Three principal entrances suggest hospitality; in front of each four square columns, extending from ground to portico roof, guard upper and lower porches. Magnificent cedars, whose tops the little granddaughter Sally Glenn (now the venerable Mrs. W. B. Montgomery), could touch in 1850, accentuate the dignity of the house.

All the rooms are large and airy; but one room is unlike any other in the county. Few persons of our time have seen this room; but many a happy guest of the past spent delightful hours under its arched ceiling. This is the banquet hall, which connected by double-door to another room, afforded ample space for family and twenty guests.

When the estate of David Montgomery was settled, his nephew W. B. Montgomery acquired the house and surrounding acres. Here his daughter (Miss) Madge and his second wife make their home.

Probably the largest of the antebellum residences is the W. C. Gillespie house, built in 1850, on the Louisville road a mile southwest of the courthouse. Its very size is appropriately suggestive of the large holdings of the master in lands and slaves. Four large square towering columns, based on brick piers and supporting the portico-roof are the dominant feature. Behind these the simple entrance and the commodious upper porch give admittance through large oak doors to expansive halls, twelve feet wide and forty-two feet long. From the lower hall a simple staircase leads without bend to the upper hall. On each side of each hall are two rooms, which have between them a huge stack chimney. Down stairs the rooms are twelve feet high; upstairs, at least thirteen feet. The old parlor ceiling of plaster, decorated with figures and flowers in relief, is almost the only interior architectural decoration. Furniture and curtains, china and silverware added to the commodiousness of the dwelling a temperate richness appropriate to the power of the landlord.

These houses represent well the better antebellum residences. There were other excellent residences of course; some of them are standing. The Bardwell house, built by David M. Montgomery, about three miles east of Starkville is a charming example of the semi-Spanish style. The old Glenn residence, three miles north of Starkville, the "Belk" house and the W. W. Scales Sr., house (built by Charles F. Montgomery about 1850), and the Bell-Lanier house two miles south of Starkville are other fine examples of antebellum architecture.

In none of the residences were the furnishings so exquisite as those in the palatial houses in some of the older parts of the State, notably about Vicksburg and Natchez. At the beginning of the War, our county was less than thirty years old; the large landholders had not yet become able to furnish their

houses in that style which their taste doubtless demanded. In most cases, the better chairs and sofas were of walnut with mohair upholstering; the porch and the kitchen chairs, some of them graceful, were split-bottomed oaks. In most of the mansions there were some beautiful pieces of furniture. In the Montgomery mansion, for example, there was an exquisite bookcase, which is now the property of Miss Madge Montgomery. In the Gillespie mansion a similar bookcase, now the property of Mrs. S. J. Wallace, added to the beauty of the interior. In this house there were also three four-poster beds; one of which has descended to Mrs. Hugh Critz. The Outlaw residence, too, contained some fine articles, a few of which have come down to our Dossey. To their residence, John W. Rice and Augusta Hopkins, his wife, brought a few beautiful paintings and some Dresden china, purchases on their wedding trip to Europe; several of these articles still exist, heirlooms of the descendants.

By the middle 50's the wealthier landlords had improved their lands considerably. They required that the slave-houses be clean; some had the cabins whitewashed. Probably a few had the overseers' houses plastered. Rice had extensive ditching done on his crop-lands; he started a deer-park and opened a mile-long driveway from the public road (now gone) to his front gate; and being a lover of fine horses, he got from Mexico some excellent ponies. Gillespie, also, secured fine horses. Montgomery had a brick stable, which is standing yet; and he bought some superb horses; further, he set out near his house the cedars of which I have spoken. And Outlaw also developed his place; for example, he set out the cedars before his residence.

According to their abilities, the slave-holders educated their

children. From the middle 30's until the War, they patronized the neighborhood schools. In the 50's they sent their boys and girls to the schools at Agency, the Watt place, Starkville, and possibly Turkey Creek and Double Springs. Some sent their older children to Cushman's school in beat 3, and later to the Cushman, Rosemond-Webb school in Starkville. Others employed private tutors, and a few like Mrs. Rice took their little ones to the city. Several families sent their older children off to college. Major Thompson sent a son to Tennessee; Mrs. Spencer, also, sent her son, Robert Jr., there. In 1855 William H. Glenn took his daughter Sally, then fourteen years old, by carriage out through Choctaw County to Grenada for instruction. Hugh Montgomery sent William B. to Princeton University, where he took a B. A. degree. And, of course, others gave excellent training to their sons and their daughters.

For the preservation of the slave-system, the preservation of the landlord's wealth and dignity was essential. Parents, therefore, mated their children with the wealthy youth of the community, so Mr. Doff Glenn tells me. The young aristocrat, by wedding a rich neighbor, possibly a first cousin, might bring parts of adjoining plantations under one management. Seldom did children of rich landlords marry out of their class. To the eldest son, the largest part of the patrimony might fall eventually. To the younger son, a substantial part descended, of course; on this he built his residence, marrying when he was well established. Among big slave-holders the tendency was toward primogeniture. Examples are superfluous.

Wise legislation also was necessary to the institution of slavery. All that the master had was involved in the making and execution of laws. The masters knew what legislation was necessary, and that only they or their dependents could

and would frame and put into operation the needed statutes. They did not seek the emoluments of paltry office; on the contrary, they virtually hand-picked the men who were most available to represent the semi-feudal system on the board of police or in the principal county offices and in the State Legislature.

Our agricultural aristocracy and the Northern social system, founded on free labor, were innately inimical. Northern Abolitionists were striving to destroy the Southern system; and Southern leaders, seeing the impossibility of perpetuating slavery within the Union, suggested, then advocated, then threatened secession. A few of our citizens foresaw the inevitable—armed conflict and emancipation. Some of the local Whigs, therefore, sold many, if not all, of their slaves, and either invested the proceeds or laid the money away. Many Democrats, however, thought the South invincible; and they disliked the action of the Whigs.

The War came! It put eternal stop to the development of rich landed estates founded on slave-labor and to that culture which is the flower of a caste-system.

CHAPTER VII

WAR BETWEEN THE STATES: 1861-5

AT the outbreak of the War between the States, practically all the able-bodied young men of Oktibbeha County volunteered for service in the Confederate army; and as the boys reached military age, they too enlisted. Most of our youth served the Southern government through the four years of struggle.

Some of our older men, also, engaged in the active fighting. At the beginning, a good many remained at home. A number of Whigs about Starkville conscientiously objected to secession. As they came to see that they must choose between fighting with their friends or against them, they joined the Confederate army; and they made as faithful and brave soldiers as the Confederacy had. Some of the larger slave-holders, too, did not take up arms at once; for the law exempted the owner of twenty-nine or more slaves, on the ground that his services would be worth more to the Southern cause in growing crops than in fighting. When this law was repealed, many landlords became active soldiers.

Since the young men entered the army only as they became of military age, they naturally became members of different commands. At the beginning of the struggle, the Oktibbeha boys joined one or another of several companies.

Four of these companies were in the Fourteenth regiment.

Company G, called the Agency Rifles, was mustered into State service at Choctaw Agency on April 20, 1861.

Company K, named Oktibbeha Plow Boys, was mustered in at Whitefield on April 20. The officers were Captain, J. M. Watson; First Lieutenant, A. R. Smith; Second Lieutenant, T. S. Watson; Third Lieutenant, J. S. Staunton. Many of this company died of measles at Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Company C, Oktibbeha Rescues, was mustered into service at Starkville on April 24, with the following officers: Captain, A. J. Maxwell; First Lieutenant, J. P. Rogers (later became captain); Second Lieutenant, F. H. DuQuercron; Third Lieutenant, H. L. Muldrow. This company was part of 2nd battalion.

Company A, otherwise Oktibbeha Riflemen, was mustered in I suppose on the same day. Its officers were Captain, E. O. Huntley; First Lieutenant, Champ Huntley (died at Chattanooga); Second Lieutenants, William H. Hannah (promoted to 1st. Lieut.), N. Q. Adams, T. L. Hannah, and John Fowler (killed at Perryville); Third Lieutenant, W. L. Hendon.

Company E, styled Minute Men, formally entered the service on August 6, 1862. It became a part of the second battalion. Its officers were Captain, James Ervin; First Lieutenant, T. A. Burgin; Second Lieutenant, W. H. Ellis; Third Lieutenant, J. E. Joiner. There were thirty-three men in this company, which was captured at Vicksburg, July 4, 1863.

Another Company K, called the Invincible Warriors, was in the Thirty-fifth regiment. This company was composed of men from Oktibbeha, Choctaw, Chickasaw, and possibly Lowndes counties. It was mustered into Service at West Point in March, 1862. The officers: Captain, Reuben H. Shotwell; First Lieutenant, Henry A. McCreight; Second Lieutenant, S. Henry; Third Lieutenants, Livingston and Sam L. Dubose.

I have a fairly complete record of only one of these companies—Company C or Oktibbeha Rescues of the 14th Mississippi Regiment. I have already named the officers. On July 22, 1861, commissions were issued to the following: as captain, J. P. Rogers; first lieutenant. F. H. DuQuercron; second lieutenant, H. L. Muldrow; third lieutenant, J. A. Cox. Captain A. J. Maxwell organized the company.

Only two members of the company are, so far as is known, living today: Mr. George Critz, ninety years old, a resident of Coleman, Texas; and Elisha Owen, eighty-eight years of age, a resident of Bessemer, Alabama.

Here is the roster:

George Arnold, J. W. W. Beard, Benj. F. Bell, J. G. Bell, Joseph A. Bell, R. M. Bell, Wm. M. Bell, Jr., Ples Bolin, S. C. Brack, John B. Bradshaw, Robert Bradshaw, George W. Brogan, John W. Brown, John Bryant, J. W. Butler, R. L. Cannon, John T. Chiles, William H. Chiles, J. J. Clark, E. P. Connell, John Connell, L. T. Connell, George W. Cook, Willis J. Cook, John H. Cooper, L. L. Cooper, A. P. Cottrell, J. A. Cottrell, A. A. Cox, James A. Cox, George E. Critz, William L. Cromwell, Archy Davis, J. A. Davis, J. E. Davis, J. G. Davis, G. G. Dillard, T. E. Dillard, Sam L. Dubose, F. H. Duquercron, Leopold Duquercron, E. P. Gabel, J. B. Gay, James Gillespie, Thomas A. Gladney, J. S. Gordon, Calvin Graham, Charles Graham, N. Graham, David J. Green, J. L. Green, B. F. Greer, Oliver D. Haigood, T. R. Hall, John H. Hardy, Y. J. Harrington, William Harris, W. N. Harris, Henry P. Hearon, Thomas A. Henly, John T. Henry, S. T. High, James W. Hodnett, J. B. Hogan, William N. Hogan, W. D. Holly.

William Jackson, G. T. James, John W. James, W. James, Frank M. Johnson, William L. Joiner, John E. Jordan, C. T. Keeney, Pinckney H. Kennedy, J. H. Lansing, William T.

Lockhart, T. J. Lovett, George W. Maddox, Thomas A. Maddox, A. J. Maxwell, Nathan L. McAlister, Alexander McAmis, Robert C. McCreight, William B. McKell, Robert L. McNatt, Alexander McPhail, J. M. McPhail, Jefferson F. Merchant, W. H. Merinar, Lawson L. Miller, William Mitchell, Charles P. Montgomery, George Morgan, J. W. Mosely, H. L. Muldrow, W. C. Muldrow, Smith Myers, John H. Owen, Elisha M. Owens, John W. Parker, James M. Peedin, William D. Peedin, William H. Peoples, B. E. Petty, W. H. Petty, William Pierce, John Pope, Franklin M. Powell, John Powell, Moses Price, W. H. Puller, Henry M. Ramey, Franklin E. Ramsey, Blewitt S. Redus, Joseph E. Richburg, J. G. Riddle, J. C. Roberson.

J. M. Rogers, J. P. Rogers, James M. Ross, C. Rowan, John Ruffin, William H. Ruffin, F. W. Russell, William L. Sanders, J. G. Saxon, W. A. Sitton, Joseph B. Skinner, W. W. Sloan, J. B. Smith, John H. Smith, Oliver Smith, Joseph R. Spier, J. W. Stallings, D. A. Thomas, Andrew M. Thompson, John T. Thompson, H. D. Vinson, William Wallace, William Ward, David Watson, Jessie Watson, C. B. Watt, J. G. Watt, J. J. Watt, T. T. Weatherby, William L. Wethersbee, James White, Joseph White, Luke White, B. D. Whitney, and J. C. Williams.

During the war, farm production in Oktibbeha became small. Most of the vigorous white men were in the army; and many of the most active slaves also were in camp, serving as personal attendants to their soldier-masters. Further, the farmers who were at home had no general market for their produce. Neither New England, where most of the American spindles were then, nor Europe, especially England, the greatest foreign purchasers of Southern cotton, was open to our farmers. Between the South and New England marched a million Union soldiers; and between Europe and the South, the great Federal navy prohibited commerce. As the war

went on, more of our able-bodied youth joined the Confederate army; at the same time, Yankee soldiers marched deeper and deeper into the cotton belt. Bountiful production was impossible. With difficulty our farmers raised the cotton, corn, and meat necessary for the farms and the army. They no longer worked to increase their wealth; they strove to sustain their dependants at home and in the field—to maintain the Confederacy.

Our people had another serious struggle—against the continual decline in the value of their money. During the War, both the several States and the Confederate government issued vast quantities of paper money. The most popular Mississippi money was "Cotton Money." Any owner of cotton could draw five cents a pound from the State, if he would apply to the Governor and promise to deliver to the Governor the cotton whenever he should call for it. At the beginning of the War, Confederate money commanded a slight premium; but almost immediately it began to suffer a discount. By July, 1861 the discount was 10 per cent; early in '62 it was 40 per cent; by March, 1863 it was 80 per cent; in July of that year it was 95 per cent; and in January, 1864 it was 98 per cent. The decline was not constant, but at times radical.

Fortunately the State Legislature early enacted a law that alleviated somewhat the financial distress of our people. The Stay Law suspended suits during the period of the war. For several years, therefore, the farmers, merchants, and others might go ahead, doing business under trying conditions, it is true, but without fear of execution of judgment and possible foreclosure.

The Battle of Bull Run gave warning to both North and South that the War would be long and severe. Throughout the South the elation over the victory in the first clash of arms

was great. Not till September, 1862 did the Union army check appreciably the ardor of the South. The half-victory of Antietam in Maryland prompted Lincoln to issue on September 22 a proclamation, giving notice that on January 1, 1863, "all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State the people whereof shall be in rebellion against the United States shall then, thenceforward, and forever be free." On January 1, 1863, he issued the final declaration of emancipation. Apparently these proclamations had little effect upon our people. After a great Confederate success, they hoped the emancipation proclamation might prove abortive. Certainly until after Appomatox, the slave-owners continued to control their slaves just as though no proclamation had been made.

Yankee Armies were frequently in Mississippi, and often marched deep into the State. In spite of the vigilance and activity of the Confederate soldiers, the Yankee forces kept our people in almost constant fear of a raid. Yet the Yankees visited Oktibbeha County only once during the War. In 1863 Grierson's raiders, in their wide swing in Mississippi, plundered much of the county. Though they moved at great speed for fear of encountering Confederate cavalry, they succeeded in stealing many horses, mules, cattle, hogs, and other things that could serve them, and in destroying other property that they thought might serve the Confederacy. My family is in possession of an old mahogany bureau which, locked at the time, the raiders broke open in search for valuables. They battered it with rifle-barrels; today it shows the marks of their violence. It is now in almost the same condition as it was when the raiders finished with it more than a half-century ago. On their way back to the southwest, these raiders burned the

tanning yard and the mill of Green and Outlaw near Longview.

Fear of raids and social unrest caused a good many families from other parts of the State to come to Oktibbeha now and then for a temporary sojourn. And they also prompted some of our own families to leave the county for a time. Thus Mrs. Augusta Rice, widow of John W. Rice, took her small children and a few slaves to Columbus or Mobile for short stays. When rumor of an approaching raid was afloat, these people drove their stock to a safe distance and those who owned a few valuables buried them or sent them off to some place out of the probable course of the raiders. Some money, jewelry, and other valuables may still lie buried in the county; most of the precious articles of personal adornment and most of the silver and gold, however, found their way ultimately to those who could furnish food and clothing to the distressed family.

In 1864, a body of Yankee cavalry came as far south as West Point. A force of Confederate cavalry, under General Nathan B. Forrest, went to meet them. The Yankees took a strong position on the hills overlooking Sakatonchee Creek; and the Confederates sought the protection of the big trees in the swamp. For some hours, the guns of the Yankees were directed against the Confederate position; probably thirty or forty cannon blazed away at the timber in which the Confederates were hidden. Mr. W. O. Page, then fourteen years old, and Mr. H. A. Culpepper, then only five years old, remember the booming of the guns. The shells, directed too high, did little damage to the Confederates, but splintered the great oaks, cypress, and gums under which they were sheltered. Eventually the Federals withdrew, leaving a few prisoners to the Confederates. Forrest pursued them to Harrisburg; then fell back to his camp, just north of where the A.

and M. College stands—to be exact, to the hills that are in Mrs. Sallie Barr's pasture. Here the Confederates remained for several weeks, ready to protect north-central Mississippi from any Yankee raid.

On the whole, the people of Oktibbeha lived very quietly and very simply. Of necessity they depended on their own resources for most of the necessaries. They raised corn, and ground their own meal at home; they raised many hogs, meat for themselves and for the army; after 1863, when the Yankees had cut off the Louisiana salt supply, our farmers probably did what farmers elsewhere did, got salt from the ground under the smokehouses; they used parched grain or potatoes for coffee; and they spun their thread and wove much of their cloth, both cotton and woolen, at home. Many, however, had occasional recourse to the cloth factory at Bankston in Choctaw County, afterwards moved to Wesson; they traded meat—sides or hams—for cloth. Mr. W. O. Page recalls a trip he made from Osborn to Bankston near the end of the War.

From 1861 to 1878 Lowndes and Oktibbeha counties formed a senatorial district. During the War period our senators were Moses Jourdan, of Lowndes County, '61-'64, and C. F. Miller, of Starkville, '65-'67.

In the House our representatives were C. F. Miller, 1860-61; Dr. J. G. Carroll, of beat 5, 1863-4; and B. F. Cromwell, of beat 3, 1865-67.

In an earlier chapter I gave an account of Miller.

Carroll, who later served two more terms in the House, came from Carrollton, Alabama to this county in 1850. For many years he lived at Agency, practicing medicine, farming, and merchandising; the last years of his life he spent in Starkville. He represented the county several times in the Legislature. His wife was Narcissa Elizabeth Williams of Carrollton,

Alabama. Their children were Thomas B., Febbie, Emma Beverly, John S., Eva (who died in childhood), and Maude.

Cromwell, born at Tarboro, North Carolina, was the son of Patrick Cromwell, who had settled near Artesia. The father was a very large land-owner, who contracted to build eighty-seven miles of the Mobile and Ohio road-bed with his slaves and mules. The son inherited about three hundred slaves and three sections of land. He operated a large plantation at Trim Cane, where he lived. He was the uncle of Mr. R. P. Washington, and the father of four sons: Edwin Boykin, William Blake, Henry Muldrow, and Ellis. He was the grandfather of Edwin Cromwell and Mildred (Mrs. John W. Rice) of West Point. Cromwell died in 1915.

As I have said, Dr. Bushrod White bought the Nash water mill on Noxubee in 1858. Through the War he had a slave Zuber in charge of the mill. The slave was uneducated, perhaps illiterate, yet remarkable with figures. To the wonder of the patrons of the mill, Henry Zuber could calculate almost instantly the true value of a bill in spite of the rapid fluctuation of our paper money, could pay the correct amount for any amount of corn he bought, and could give unerringly the right change to one paying a debt.

About 1865 J. W. Wade taught school at Agency.

Salem church kept its doors open during the War. The Rev. T. G. Sellers was the pastor from '57 to '72; and C. W. Jordan, father of Ed. Jordan, was the clerk from '60 to '68.

Over at Red Acre—a half-mile north of the site of Sessums—Professor Farrow taught early in the War and Hillery Herron taught in the last year. In the Hickory Grove community, Dr. Glenn Montgomery and Dr. R. P. Pearson practiced medicine through the War; Dr. Gilsen practiced until 1863—then he moved to Texas.

Early in the 60's a tornado, passing through the Northwest district, did much damage to timber, but fortunately destroyed no residences and, I believe, injured nobody. The popular name for tornado was "har-i-cane."

At Bell School House, John B. Sanders practiced medicine.

At Double Springs, J. R. McMullin and Sam Cooper were the doctors throughout the War; and Mack High served the community as a doctor until '63, when he either died or moved away. Joe Riley was the postmaster.

Miss Gibson and James B. McCreight taught school in Starkville, and near the close of the War, Alexander Ellett, who had succeeded Webb, was teaching in what we knew for a long time as the Maxwell house.

The Burns hotel continued in operation; it was beginning to gain the great reputation it long enjoyed among the traveling public, especially judges, district attorneys, and lawyers who traveled the Circuit with the Court.

The churches continued to minister to the spiritual needs of the community. S. F. Frierson was the pastor of the U. S. Presbyterians; David Pressley, of the Reform Presbyterians. I do not know who the ministers of the Methodist church were. T. G. Sellers, who preached at Salem as I have said, preached also to the Starkville Baptists. C. A. Bogan and William H. Glenn were the deacons, the latter being also the clerk.

Out at Whitefield Dr. W. J. Barron practiced throughout the War; and Dr. J. W. Edwards, who began his practice about 1862, continued to minister to the physical needs of many of the neighborhood until after the surrender.

In 1865 Fondern ran the only store at Whitefield.

About the same time a "harricane" passed over the southwestern corner of the county. It killed no one and destroyed no residences, but it ruined a great deal of fine timber.

CHAPTER VIII

RECONSTRUCTION: FIRST PERIOD—'65-'70

IN the spring of 1865 the people of the South stood amid the ruins of the old social system. Several million whites, among whom the former slave owners were prominent, looked regretfully upon the wreck of the slave-aristocracy, and vaguely and anxiously planned a new social order in which every person, regardless of color, might enjoy life as fully as Nature and the Federal constitution would allow. And four million negroes, almost all of whom were but yesterday chattel slaves, gazed about ignorantly and aimlessly, expecting their recent masters to provide for them as formerly.

The white people had lost grievously during the War. To maintain the system of master and slave, they had risked the lives of a million youth, and lost tens of thousands on a hundred battlefields. To support the Confederacy, they had cultivated crops as best they could in the face of the enemy, but had neglected the residences, barns, mills, and fences. To feed and clothe themselves, they had bought on credit; and to finance the government, they had bought billions of government bonds, which were now become worthless. To what practical end? They had lost four million slaves, worth two billion dollars; and they had lost the cause for which they had struggled.

Of course the people of Oktibbeha had shared these losses. Many a family lost one or more sons on the field of battle; and many welcomed home not the superb boy who had

gone "to war," but a heroic warrior maimed for life. Our slave-holders had lost seven thousand hands, easily worth three and a half million dollars. And nearly all had contracted heavy financial obligations. In common with the rest of the South, they had lost, though they hardly knew it yet, the opportunity for self-government during more than a decade.

Appomatox did at least two good things for our people. It allowed them once more to work almost undisturbed on farm and in factory, and it allowed them once more to ship to the markets of the world. The people of Oktibbeha were not slow in taking advantage of these opportunities. Without banks or money, the farmers had recourse again to the commission merchants, especially those of Mobile. Slaves gone, land was no longer ready security. The cotton crop was the security, for each probable bale the farmer usually could secure an advance of ten dollars. Many farmers could not pay cash for needed supplies. Many failed to make expenses. In consequence, retail merchants became insolvent, and in turn wholesale houses failed; most of the commission houses suffered heavy losses, and a good many went out of business. Soon our farmers could not find a lender; fortunately they could not borrow on their lands. They practiced self-denial and in time learned to make a living under new conditions.

Many of our people had hardly set to work again, when they came face to face with a very serious financial difficulty. We recall that the "Stay Law" had suspended all suits during the War. Now that peace had come, creditors sought to collect debts long overdue. In 1865 the courts were clogged with suits on contracts made before the War began. Usually the litigation concerned old notes to which there was no defense. Creditors did not desire to compromise their claims. Nobody

was able to pay in full; and many persons were driven to bankruptcy.

Our people had another trouble, that of labor. The landlords knew how to manage slave-labor, but without experience they knew almost nothing of the management of free labor. They knew that the negro was free either to leave his "marsah's" plantation; they did not interfere with the liberty of movement. Most former slaves remained on the old home place; but a good many gradually moved to a neighbor's plantation where they had relatives. Some landlords found themselves with extra "help"; others, without sufficient hands to work the lands. All farmers, also, knew that the negro, being free, could either work or be idle, and that many a darkey, ignorant and dull, could not understand yet that even the free man must work for a living. The farmers necessarily tolerated much idleness.

For such work as they could get done, the farmers now paid in cash or in kind. Some, especially the young men, learned quickly to manage free labor profitably; but, it is noteworthy, most who were forty years old in 1865 never learned to handle free labor advantageously. Though all recognized the negro's freedom, they asserted their superiority to hands just as they had done before the war. They commanded and occasionally demanded respect and honesty of the negro. The white man was boss. Seldom was a darkey impudent to a white person. He expected and usually got a whipping if he was impudent or caught stealing. He would not resist the white man, but if given a chance would run.

No animus existed between the negroes and the Southern whites in 1865. The feeling was kindly. The races worked harmoniously for a realization of the negro's freedom. The

whites actually assisted the negroes in their mental and religious aspirations. The negroes had seen the whites build churches and schools, and naturally wanted social institutions of their own. The whites encouraged the darkeys to build churches and to separate from the white congregations, to which the negroes belonged during slavery. White ministers began to preach occasionally in negro churches. Likewise, many of our whites encouraged negro education, and during the decade ending in 1878 some good Southern white people took active part in schools for negroes. Our people thought that they should supervise the education of the negroes. Knowing that negro "teachers" were unfit to train the negro children and fearing that Yankee teachers would produce friction between the races, many loyal Southern whites in various parts of the South taught negro schools. In Oktibbeha County, seven good Southern whites, I recall, taught negro schools. One of these teachers later held office as a Democrat; another was active in one of the white churches and enjoyed personal popularity.

The negroes respected the Southern whites. Though grateful to the Yankees for freedom, they had for the Northern white less respect than for their former owners. In the opinion of the negroes, the Southern whites were superior socially to the Yankees.

As all know, the Yankees hampered the Southern people in the tremendous task of constructing a new social system; and the victorious party, suspicious of the motives of Southern whites and zealous for the liberties of the enfranchised negroes, exercised much power in Oktibbeha County from 1865 to 1878. Early in 1865 a garrison of Yankee soldiers appeared in Starkville, for the purpose of "keeping the white people of the county down." The military authorities removed the regular

officials throughout the South, and put military officers in charge of the counties, and they put the captain of the Starkville garrison, a man named Graves, in charge of Oktibbeha County.

Graves and his soldiers camped a little southwest of where the Mobile and Ohio freight depot stands. They were very insulting to the whites who had been true to the Confederacy and they put devilment into the heads of the negroes. Graves granted permits to two white people to sell whiskey by the drink in Starkville, which they did for a short time. Some thought that Graves had no authority to grant the permits and that he put money accruing from the permits into his pocket for personal use. Under his tutelage the negroes began to express preference for Yankee teachers for negro schools. During the eighteen months the company remained, Graves and his soldiers caused much trouble and embarrassment to our people.

Graves was the ruler of the county. When in the summer of 1865, the Freedmen's Bureau established the Oktibbeha branch or court, Graves by virtue of his office became controller of the court. Charles A. Sullivan was the judge of the court. Graves was the power behind the throne; Sullivan, the executor of the law. It was Sullivan's duty to mete out "justice" in all legal disputes between the whites and the former slaves and to see that the farmers and the negroes had labor contracts.

Sullivan decided the disputes. The court had no juries and sometimes heard cases behind closed doors. Agitators prompted negroes to carry their grievances to the court—real grievances sometimes, imaginary and trivial complaints very often. Decisions were usually in favor of the negroes. Sullivan possibly thought it bad policy to decide against the blacks.

The penalties inflicted on the whites were sometimes both unjust and severe.

Sullivan also probably supervised the contracts made between the farmers and the negroes, and later decided disputes arising in respect to the agreements. The contracts were made on printed forms and signed by the contracting parties and by witnesses. Except for the omission of the names of some tenants, the following is a true copy of a Freedman's contract:

AGREEMENT WITH FREEDMEN

This Agreement, made this_____day of October 5th, A. D. 186, by and between Augusta H. Rice of the county of Oktibbeha and State of Mississippi, of the first part, and the person hereinafter named and undersigned, Freedmen of the same place, part____hereto of the second part_____

WITNESSETH, That for the purpose of cultivating the Plantation known as the Meadow Woods plantation, in the county of Oktibbeha aforesaid, during the year commencing on the 1st day of January, A. D. 1865, and terminating on the 1st day of January, 1866. The said Augusta H. Rice, party of the first part, in consideration of the promises and conditions hereinafter mentioned on the part____of the second part, agrees to furnish to the said laborers and those rightfully dependent on them, free of charge, clothing and food of good quality and sufficient quantity; good and sufficient quarters; medical attendance when necessary, and kind and humane treatment.

Also one-eighth of the corn, cotton, wheat, potatoes, fodder and molasses.

And it is Further Agreed, That in case the said Augusta H. Rice shall fail, neglect or refuse to fulfill any of the obligations assumed by her, or shall furnish said part____of the second part with insufficient food or clothing, or be guilty of cruelty to the 2nd party, he shall, besides the legal recourse left to the party or parties aggrieved, render this contract liable to annulment by the Provost Marshal of Freedmen. And it is agreed on the part of the part____of the second part, that they will well and faithfully perform such labor as the said party of the first part may require of them for the time aforesaid, not exceeding ten hours per day in the summer and nine hours in the winter; and in case any laborer shall absent himself or herself from, or shall neglect or

refuse to perform the labor herein promised, and the fact shall be proven to the satisfaction of the proper officer, the party so offending shall be punished in such manner as the Provost Marshal shall deem proper.

In Testimony Whereof, The said parties have affixed their names to this agreement at Meadow Woods plantation, State of Mississippi, on the day and date aforesaid.

Names	Age	No. of Dependents	REMARKS
Alfred (X)	45	5	
Becky (X)	38		
Lily (X)	22	2	
Jim (X)	19		
Arch (X)	15		
Jeff (X)	35	4	
Aurelia (X)	40		
Clarke (X)	15		Executed in Presence of
Maria (X)	18	1	F. Dunbar
Delphi (X)	45		M. Dunbar
Ben (X)	32	3	A. B. Parks

Sullivan was a native of this county, a brother of Crockett and of.....Sullivan; he was a lawyer; he had opposed secession; as long as the Republicans ruled the county, he affiliated with them; and after having served in the Freedmen's Bureau, he became, through the Republican power, a chancery judge. Neither he nor his brothers have descendants of male issue, nor probably of female, in this county. All are gone. As long as he lived, nearly all our loyal Southern people despised him as an enemy to the South and the land of his birth; a few, however, had a somewhat different opinion. Personally, I am inclined to believe he was rather politic than bad. I knew him intimately from 1878 to the time of his death; and I think that aside from his too frequent use of strong drink, he was not a bad man. He was, in fact, kind-hearted. Of course he was obnoxious to us while he was in the Freedmen's Bureau. It was remembered that he usually decided against the whites; but it

should also be remembered that he always acquitted a white man who had whipped a negro for stealing. Had he decided for the whites and against the negroes in most cases, Graves would probably have removed him and have appointed a worse man, and after Graves left, the military power in the State would probably have done likewise.

Neither Graves nor his military successors ventured to fill all offices with negroes or with new-comers. They were afraid to put many negroes into office, for the darkeys were densely ignorant and only a few new-comers fit for office had yet settled in the county. Consequently from 1865 to 1869, the Southern whites succeeded in filling many offices with their friends.

To the Constitutional convention of 1865, they sent the Rev. David Pressley, who had been a Whig before the War; but in the Black and Tan convention of '69, they had no representatives—none who lived in the county.

To the state senate, they sent that admirable man C. F. Miller, who served for the years 1865-67—Lowndes County elected the senator for 1868-9.

To the house of representatives, our people sent young B. L. Cromwell, son of the big land-owner, Patrick Cromwell, brother-in-law of R. P. Washington, and eventually ancestor of many prominent persons both in Mississippi and elsewhere.

In the office of probate judge, the Southern whites retained David Ames until 1867, when he died after twenty-nine years of continuous service.

Likewise they kept W. S. James in the office of sheriff until his death in '69; and W. C. Bishop in the office of probate clerk until 1869. By virtue of their offices, these gentlemen were members of the board of police during this three or four year period.

In the other places on the board, our people put the following gentlemen; for 1866-7, W. H. Glenn, as president; J. T. Randolph, and B. J. Rives; for 1868-9, T. W. Puller, as president; J. Green, B. C. Joiner, N. Turnett, and E. Redus. Descendants of most of these men are prominent in the county.

In 1867, however, the military authorities captured the office of county treasurer. They installed a recent settler, Joe W. Woodward, as treasurer; and the Republican party, of which he was a member, retained him in office until 1876. Woodward was a tailor in trade; he proved to be a very satisfactory officer; he has prominent descendants in the county. In 1868, the military authorities made W. E. Saunders, an Oktibbeha Republican, circuit clerk.

When W. S. James died in 1869, the Republicans captured the sheriff's office, and installed Crockett Sullivan. Sullivan served only a little while; but during his short term he proved himself to be the only wholly unsatisfactory Republican who has held office in Oktibbeha County.

This is not to say that bad, or at least unsatisfactory, persons did not try for office. Since early in '65, when the soldiers garrisoned Starkville, two classes, hateful to loyal Southern people, had been increasing. One class was composed of native white men who, professing to sympathize with the North in its efforts to give the negroes "equal political rights," joined the Republican party. Many of these were evidently hungry for spoils of office. Our people generally called these men Scalawags. The other class embraced emigrants from the North, men who brought neither money nor property but who, it was popularly supposed, brought a few personal effects in carpet-bags, the usual name for valises or suit-cases. They unquestionably came to pick up bargains among an impoverished people and especially to secure office. And our people

called them Carpetbaggers. Both classes were quite willing to accept office when the Republicans captured the State in 1869. Our people heartily disliked each class; but despised the Scalawags who, most persons thought, sought office only for the money incident thereto.

The anti-Southern elements—soldiers, Carpetbaggers, and Scalawags—certainly were harmful to the body politic. First of all, the soldiers began to disturb the harmony existing between the loyal Southern whites and the negroes, suggesting that the negroes drop their Southern teachers and secure Northern teachers. Then, the Carpetbaggers urged the darkeys to display their political independence—to vote, and to vote against the Southerners who had kept the negroes in bondage, and to vote for Republicans, who had set them free; and the Scalawags abetted the Carpetbaggers. Carpetbags and Scalawags attended negro meetings—camp-meetings and political gatherings. And some individuals actually practiced social equality.

The better members of these groups did nothing, I believe, to encourage the negroes to violence. They were desirous, of course, that the darkeys vote, but were, I think, opposed to inflammatory speeches. Unfortunately they could not control a large crowd of negroes whose passions some violent demagogue had aroused. They thought that the Southern whites should not control the state, a majority of the population being newly enfranchised negroes; and they believed that they should assist the negroes in securing full political liberty and should at least share in control of the State. From long personal acquaintance with many of these better men, I believe that at heart they sympathized with the loyal Southern whites.

In justice to them, I say that those who eventually secured

office were fairly satisfactory officers. With one notorious exception, none of them ever practiced equality with the negroes. They moved in good social circles—some, in the very best; and some were personally popular both before and after entering office. Though our people opposed Republican policies and tried to keep or put these men out of office, they respected the character both of the men and of their families.

In 1869, the Republicans and the Democrats (or loyal Southern men) in Mississippi engaged in a political contest. The results of this were a new State Constitution and Republican-Negro supremacy in the state for six or eight years.

Prior to the election of '69, Carpetbaggers and Scalawags stirred the enthusiasm of the negroes for the Republican cause. The negroes formed political clubs and held frequent meetings. The call for a meeting was the beating of drums. The negroes beat a large drum and a small drum simultaneously, and they so varied the beating as to indicate the purpose of the meeting. When the weather was right, the pounding of the drums carried great distances. Long processions of negroes attended political rallies, some negroes going on foot as infantry and some on mule-back as cavalry. I saw a column on a seven-mile march to Artesia. A white man named Lee interrupted their speaker. The negroes became enraged, and struck him with a sword and kicked and trampled him to death.

Shortly before the election, the negroes held a meeting almost every night. Great numbers would attend; young men today can hardly understand how many negroes lived in the Southeast and the Northeast district in 1869. Long columns would march even eight or ten miles to a rally, keeping step in military style, drums and bugles making a great noise; and the leaders carried arm-swords. Anyone meeting the blacks

had to get out of the road until they had passed. Frequently we white people heard the "long roll" even after midnight.

On election day I saw a double column a half-mile long approach Choctaw Agency, surround the voting-box, and make it difficult for the loyal whites to vote. At one time, these negroes, nearly half of whom were cavalry, paraded; each negro carried a stick which had on its end an ear of corn; and all were continually cheering, waving their sticks, and yelling "All corn and no cotton—all corn—Alcorn;—All corn and no fodder—all corn—Alcorn!"

Republicans and negroes made J. L. Alcorn governor, ratified the Constitution of '69, and elected to various state offices and to the legislature many persons whom the loyal Southerners would never have elected; and in Oktibbeha County, the Republicans and their negro allies elected many of their party. The white Republicans secured the better paying offices; a few negroes secured places; and one or two Democrats won offices.

Now a few words concerning each of the districts between 1865 and 1870.

In beat 5, down on Noxubee River, the two water mills were running at the close of the War. About 1866 the Lincecum mill became unprofitable; and Haywood Lincecum, the owner, allowed it to deteriorate and fall into Noxubee. The other mill also became less profitable. About 1866 Dr. Bushrod White sold it to Stokes Bray, who after a short time allowed it to fall into the river.

Choctaw Agency, frequently called Raw Hide, was declining gradually. It was still the center of considerable business. In 1866 and '67 J. L. Parham and A. D. Flournoy operated two large stores, and Jim Tucker, who had a liquor license, ran a grocery. From 1867 to 1874, J. T. Ryan had a fair-sized and profitable store. In 1866 Dr. J. G. Carroll was

operating a drug-store, and Mrs. W. H. Carpenter conducted a "millinery." Possibly as early as 1869, Dr. Perkins established his office at Agency, and built a shoe and saddle shop.

The following taught school near Agency: in 1865, J. W. Wade; in 1866, James Doss; in 1869, Mr. Stanback; and in 1870, Mr. Gazzom.

Just after the War a gang of horse-thieves began to operate in the southern part of the beat. Possibly a good many persons were engaged in the nefarious business; some were residents of this county, some of adjoining counties. The Oktibbeha men stole the horses and ran them east or southwest to their confederates, who, having run the horses still farther, sold them to innocent buyers. In time, some of our good citizens caught two thieves, whose names a few old citizens remember. They hanged the elder and forced the younger to leave the county forever.

Several years after the War, B. J. Rives had a store at Hamburg or Rives' Store; and about the same time Dr. Wakefield had a drug store, and Steve Maxwell, a negro, had a blacksmith shop at this place. Hamburg was some three hundred yards east of the Robert Hartness place, that is, in the northeast quarter of section 2, township 17, range 14.

Between 1865 and 1870, several physicians were practicing in the beat. For a year or two at the close of the War, Dr. Dave Owen practiced here; then he moved to Crawford. Dr. J. G. Creigler began to practice about 1865; and he continued to serve the same community, in the southeastern part of the beat, until his death in 1912. And for one year, 1867, I believe, Dr. Davis Howarth resided in the beat.

Up in district 2, the white Baptists sold their old Mayhew Church to the negroes about 1868.

The white people at Black Jack were using the building

which they had moved from County Line in 1860 as a union church-house and as a school.

Here Dr. T. G. Sellers, David Pressley, and Alexander Ellett preached occasionally; and here Miss McDowell, who later became Mrs. W. E. Saunders, taught the children of the former slave-owners.

In the Northwest district, Drs. John B. Saunders, J. B. Ellis, M. Gilbert and George Ellis were still practicing in the Bell School House community.

At Double Springs, the following were active physicians: Dr. Quinn, Dr. J. R. McMullin, and Dr. Dandall (from '65 when he returned to the county to '67). Jim Petty and the firm of Hub. T. Saunders and Frank Ramsey were merchants. In 1870 Saunders killed Tom Lewis; Lewis was in Saunders' store. Saunders was never indicted. Later he became sheriff. In '70 he and Ramsey sold the store to Bertha and Woodbury, who failed a few years later.

In the Southwest district, at Steelville, Peter Quinn was running the store he had bought from Mr. Dotson; and a few miles farther south, at Whitefield, Hester Fondren had the only store in the community, and Josiah Walker and W. J. Barron were the physicians. About ten miles to the southeast on the site of the Green-Outlaw mill which the raider Grierson had destroyed, W. J. Perkins established a saw-mill, in which he used some of the materials of the old mill.

In the Central district, as in all the other beats, farming remained the chief economic activity. Starkville was then, as now, the center of all major activities. It was, however, a very small town; a few frame stores, some residences, a few fairly handsome, rather widely separated; three churches; bad roads. Tolbert soon found his tanning business unprofitable; but

Mose Bardwell, who had worked in the yard as a slave, continued to work in the yard until 1880. In 1865 Lee Stillman established the *Oktibbeha New Era,* a weekly paper, which he published until 1875. In 1866, John McCormick established *The East Mississippi Times;* a little later W. H. Cochran, brother of Judge Cochran of Meridian, bought the paper and edited it until 1882.

Starkville had several schools. Possibly the most important school for boys was a quarter of a mile north of Main street and about the same distance west of the West Point road. Among the teachers were the preachers Frierson and Sellers and Messrs. Foster and Lockhart, and among the numerous pupils were W. O. Page and James Bardwell. The principal school for girls was on the site of our grammar school. Dr. Sellers was the principal; W. E. Saunders, afterwards chancery clerk, was assistant; and Mrs. Saunders was the music teacher. About 1870 Mr. Saunders had a school where Miss Polly Ward lives. Lon Cox, a one-legged soldier, ran a school for several years near the fork of the Longview and Aderton roads. Frank Critz, later chancery judge, taught in Starkville in 1869-70.

The physicians were S. W. Caldwell, R. P. Perrson, E. P. Connell, W. N. Adams, and ___ ___ Carley.

The lawyers were C. F. Miller, Frank Critz, George E. Critz, Frank Pate, and the partners, J. J. Dennis and Jim Pilcher, H. L. Muldrow and Wiley N. Nash, ___ ___ Finklea and ___ ___ Jones.

David Pressley was minister of the Reform Presbyterian church; S. F. Frierson, of the Old School church; J. G. Sellers, of the Baptist, and J. G. Jones, I think, of the Methodist church.

No one knows who were the officers of the town; all minutes and records prior to 1878 are gone—lost or burned. The

Military authorities in 1869 put Thomas Gillespie, a native son and a Democrat, in charge of the village.

In spite of the War, the county grew in population, property-valuation (excluding slave-values), and social institutions between 1860 and 1870. According to the Census of 1870, the population had increased almost 2000. It was distributed as follows:

DISTRICT	WHITE		NEGRO	TOTAL
	Native	Foreign		
5 Agency	782	5	3373	4160
2 Siloam	1282	24	2641	3947
3 Double Springs	1464	2	530	1996
4 Whitefield	1169		559	1728
1 Starkville	936	23	2201	3160
	5633	54	9304	14991

The principal crops were:

Cotton 6288 bales (possibly of 400 lbs. each)

Potatoes

Sweet 23627 bushels

Irish 2915 bushels

Tobacco 2046 pounds

Wool 3763 pounds

Honey 3885 pounds

The assessed valuation of property was $1,894,000—the realty valuation being $1,229,000 and the personal $665,000; the actual worth of all property was $2,781,000.

Taxes for all purposes, except national, amounted to $51,-930—representing a 34 mill levy. The total public indebtedness, and that was bonded, was $5000.

Some of the white race were well educated; but many of the poorer whites had only the rudiments of schooling, and about 700 whites above ten years of age were illiterate. Almost

all the negroes above ten years of age were illiterate; 5558 negroes could not read and write.

The census does not give the number and location of schools. Public instruction was however becoming more popular; 679 pupils attended school.

CHAPTER IX

RECONSTRUCTION: SECOND PERIOD, '70-78

FROM January 1, 1870 to January 1, 1878, the Republicans held most of our county offices; occasionally a Democrat won an office.

The men who represented Oktibbeha in the state senate were:

1870-74—Robert Gleed, a black negro of Lowndes County. Gleed was a man of unusual intelligence. Before the War Columbus officers had arrested him as a runaway slave. He refused to tell where he came from or the name of his master. According to law, the officers sold him to the highest bidder. He kept his identity a profound secret as long as he lived. He was prominent in politics during reconstruction.

1874-76—N. B. Bridges, a white man, a native of Choctaw County, a Union man, an emigrant from the South during the War, a sheriff of Choctaw County after the War, a resident of Oktibbeha County when elected to the senate, and the father of several prominent persons of our own day.

1876-78—W. H. Sims, a one-legged Confederate veteran. He eventually became lieutenant governor and afterwards moved to Birmingham where he died recently, I think.

Our representatives in the lower house of the legislature were:

1870-72—David Higgins, a brown-skinned negro preacher of beat 2; and Randle Nettles, a mulatto Baptist preacher of beat 5.

1872-74—George H. Holland, a white man, a native of Mississippi, a resident of beat 3.

1874-76—Anderson Boyd, a ginger-cake-colored negro of beat 2; and Ben Chiles, a bright mulatto, who lived in Starkville.

1876-78—H. L. Muldrow, a white man, a Democrat, a lawyer, who attained distinction.

Some of the other important officers were: Sheriff, Homer C. Powers; Chancery Clerk, W. E. Saunders; Circuit Clerk, W. A. Hale; Treasurer, Joseph Woodward, '67-76, and J. M. Nichols (negro), '77-8; Chancellor of the Freedmen's Bureau, Charles A. Sullivan; Chancellor, J. J. Dennis; Superintendent of Education, David Pressley. All the white men were reasonably efficient officers, and in private life moved in good social circles, some in the best. Sullivan, as I have said, was born in this county; Saunders and Hale were citizens of the county before the War; Powers and Woodward settled here about the close of the War; and David Pressley, a Whig in the 50's, had long been identified with the county and was an exemplary character.

Pressley became our first county superintendent of education in the latter part of 1870. Governor Alcorn appointed him in conformity with the Act of July 4, 1870, which provided for the "supervision, organization, and maintenance of a uniform system of public education for the State of Mississippi." By virtue of the Act, Pressley had "general supervision of the county schools," to the end that the "poor white and colored children of the state"—to use the Governor's words—"who had been permitted in the past to grow up like wild flowers, might henceforward grow and flower like Rudbeckias and Shasta daisies."

The sheriff had the privileges of a very good office. "County warrants were worth fifty cents on the dollar and sometimes less; people who had these warrants needed money so badly that they sold them for what they could get, yet the warrants were receivable for tax at par. The sheriff could legally settle with the county and state with their respective warrants."

The members of the board of supervisors (board of police) changed rapidly during this period. Some, if not all, who served between 1870 and 1878 were:

For beat 1—David Pressley, S. E. Rives, T. J. Leake, Freeman Crenshaw, and J. C. Hines.

For beat 2—Juniper Yeates and John Gamble.

For beat 3—Dick Gibbons, Philip Eddington, J. W. Leverett, and J. L. Sherman.

For beat 4—N. Burkett, Robert Craig, and H. G. Sikes.

For beat 5—Randle Nettles and Caesar Lide.

The members for beat 1 were all white men. Four of them were good men: Pressley, Rives, Crenshaw, and Hines. Hines secured his place on the board through the influence of Sheriff Powers who saw the need for an honest and efficient official. Leake was a Carpetbagger who lived with the negroes.

One of the members for beat 2 was a negro; as a slave, Yeates had learned to read, and now he was a preacher and teacher.

All the members for beat 3 were white; at least one was a Republican—Leverett, a native of this county.

And all the members for beat 4 were white men, and possibly all were Democrats.

Both the representatives of beat 5 were negroes; Nettles served from 1870 to 1872; and Lide, who was ignorant but well-disposed, from '72 to '78.

Some justices of the peace during Republican dominance were:

For beat 2, where slave-holders had been powerful—Caesar Simmons, a negro, who served from '70 to '78; Walter Rand, a white Republican, who served in the early 70's, and Bolin Lee, a negro, who served from about '73 to '78. Simmons was intelligent and made a fair justice. I saw him convict a white man for chasing with a stick a darkey whom the white man had previously struck for impudence. Bolin Lee, however, was ignorant—his court was a mockery.

For beat 5, where the slave-owners had also dominated—Anderson Boyd, Monroe Higgins, and Mose Neely. As justices of the peace, these men, all negroes, were failures. As might be expected of ignorant persons, they rejoiced in their authority.

One of the constables in beat 5 was a negro, Alexander Hines.

When trial by jury was reestablished, negroes largely comprised the juries.

Such were our officers—legislators, general county officials, supervisors, justices of the peace, jurors. Those who represented us in the legislature were reasonably good; the white men were able and conscientious, and the negroes were not vicious, but ignorant and weak. The white Republicans controlled the legislative efforts of our negro representatives. The men who held the major county offices were, as I have said, fairly competent. Powers, who almost controlled the Republican party in the county, was fortunately an able man. The board of supervisors was at times a source of danger. For a short time Leake and the negroes had control. Leake, though a white man, was worse than any other member of the board. Usually, however, a good white man controlled the

board. David Pressley and later J. C. Hines managed the negro members very well; each of these gentlemen, during his term as president of the board, did much to prevent waste of public funds. In general the court officers were inefficient and sometimes unjust.

Trials were very interesting to nearly all negroes in their newly acquired freedom. Some darkeys apparently enjoyed going to law, for they brought many petty suits. The negroes gave little thought to the expense of "lawing" until the case was decided; and then, if they had lost, they called on the white farmers to advance the court costs. Frequently the whites could never recover what they had advanced.

Trials, especially before the justice of the peace, political rallies, religious conventions, especially camp meetings, gave the negroes opportunity to discuss their grievances, real or imaginary, against the whites. Work, the source of sure and honest living, would have kept their minds sober; but, while Yankee agitators were preaching "freedom," work became more and more repugnant. The farmers (nearly all were white men) had great difficulty in getting the negroes to work. In consequence the farms ran down. In beat 5, where negroes were very numerous, great bodies of land were without fences and lying idle. For want of labor, the cotton and corn crops were sometimes short; and for the same reason, fodder was occasionally so scarce that the farmers had difficulty in wintering the livestock. Few farmers, if any, grew hay; none understood the process of curing hay; and no farmer in the county, I believe, owned a mowing machine. I believe these conditions prevailed throughout the county, certainly in the eastern or negro quarter.

Usually the price of cotton was low. The income of the average farmer was small. Our people were poor; most could

hardly make a living, and many were getting poorer and poorer. However pitiful their income, they had to pay fixed taxes on the land. The millage, very true, was not so great as now, but it was even more incommensurate with income. Our people felt the burden because their income was so small and especially because much of the tax was squandered; rascality was frequently rampant. The discount on warrants was so great that the county paid dearly for all it bought.

The money system was unsound. All kinds of money circulated in the South, State, and county. By authority of the State, railroads issued "script" as money. In 1870, when State warrants were suffering a discount of thirty-five to forty-five per cent, the State issued certificates of indebtedness in order to stop the discount and raise the warrants to par. The certificates were bills in denominations of one to five dollars. Very soon the bills were passing at a discount. Somewhat later Federal laws prohibited further issues by the state on state credit.

In 1871 some public spirited whites secured a charter for a railroad which was to run from Starkville to Grenada. To get the charter, they made use of some prominent negro politicians, allowing the negroes to pose as the chief promoters of the road. A few of the negro charter-members were Nick Anderson, Robert Larry, Mose Bardwell, Aaron Davis, and Juniper Yeates.

The next year some prominent whites by the same means secured a charter for a railroad to run from West Point through Starkville and Kosciusko to the Illinois Central near Durant. Two of the negro charter-members were the aforenamed Robert Larry and Mose Bardwell.

Though the promoters secured the charters from the Car-

petbag legislature, they failed to get from any source the money necessary for building the roads.

About 1872 our people began trying to get the Mobile and Ohio Railroad to build a branch from Artesia to Starkville. The company promised to build the branch if Starkville and the county would vote $150,000 for the purpose. Citizens of Starkville campaigned the county, but the people refused to float the bonds. Again speakers campaigned the county; some assured the people that the road would extend through the county if the town would float an issue of $25,000 and the county an issue of $125,000. Believing this, our people voted for the bond issues, to be paid off in twenty years. Convict labor built the road, finishing it in the latter part of 1874—not through the county, but only to Starkville. The village was no longer an inland town; in their elation, many persons thought the village would become a city. A boom began; persons from the country and from other counties moved to the town; new stores opened; the population increased three hundred per cent within a few years.

For several years, the train ran only three times a week in dull times. Chiles and Mallory, livery-men, leased the right to run a hand-car; and they carried passengers every other day. The fare was one dollar each way. Four negroes operated the car.

In 1871 the Legislature transferred the northern fifth of the county, a strip six miles wide and twenty-four miles long, from Oktibbeha to the new county, Colfax, now Clay.

Down in beat 5, the little town of Agency still struggled on, but it was slowly growing smaller; for the railroad was drawing traffic from the Robinson Road and some whites saw greater opportunity in Starkville where the negroes were not so numerous and uncontrollable. Several of the old stores

were in operation. Besides, Dr. Carroll was running a store (in '74), and T. J. Gray was operating a general store not long after this. The school teachers were A. S. Lide, in '71; B. F. McCray, in '72 and '74; and "Miss Pet" (Mrs. A. E.) Perkins, in '73 and '75, and T. B. Carroll in '76-7.

Drs. Carroll and Perkins were here. Dr. D. J. Zuber practiced here for two years—'72-'74—and then moved to Arkansas. And Dr. Arthur H. Rice settled in this community, at the old home-place, in '75. Reading, practicing medicine, farming, serving in the legislature—he remained a citizen of the beat until his death in 1921. He had studied in France and Germany and held degrees from the Mobile Medical School and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University. His interests were broad. His hobby was fine horses; Pointer Johnstone, a saddler, and Peter Stokes, a trotter, time 2:18, were two of his horses.

During Reconstruction Howard's water mill remained in operation. The mill was on Oktoc Creek, near the Noxubee County line and not far from the Robinson Road. Here, in 1874, the Government established a postoffice, gave it the name of the creek—pronounced Oketark—and appointed Howard postmaster. When Howard died, his nephew moved four or five miles northeast to the Stallings' place on the Robinson Road and, without consulting the Postmaster General, took along the postoffice supplies, induced the rider to bring the mail to the new site, and retained "Howard" as the name of the postmaster and "Oktoc" as that of the office. It was a year or two before the postal inspectors found that Howard was dead and that the office was in a new place. The Government appointed a new man as master, approved the new site, and retained the name Oktoc.

To distinguish the new place from the old, the patrons

pronounced the name of the new place "Oktoc," which was on the Stallings plantation. In fact the office was housed in the Stallings store. The building stands to this day. Green and John Stallings built it about 1872; John conducted a mercantile business here until his death in 1882; and several others, including the present owner, J. D. Hollinshead, operated store and postoffice for many years. Starkville now serves the community, which is on rural route No. 1.

Nathan Jones, a negro, assassinated a white man named Lowery, a tenant, in 1877 at a place not far from Salem church. Sam Friday, a white man, was charged with hiring the negro to kill Lowery. Both were sentenced to life in the penitentiary.

In 1874, when the M. & O. branch was laid in front of his house (now the remodeled Young house), Isaac Sessums built a store and the railroad established a station. The place has ever since been *Sessums*. In the next year Isaac Sessums built a standard race track and grandstand, and employed trainers and jockeys, encouraged racing. He charged for admission. The public usually bet on the races. Sessums owned a trotting stallion, Cephas, time about 2:40. Sessums' death in 1887 was accidental. A burglar had been breaking into houses. To "get" the burglar Sessums set a spring gun; and later, when absent-mindedly he opened the door, he received his death-wound.

In beat 2, the negroes were sometimes troublesome; and their former masters had a hard time getting work done and making ends meet.

At Hickory Grove, Dr. Glenn Montgomery was practicing medicine, and Dr. S. M. Rainey practiced in the community after '72.

Over in beat 3, Jem McEachem practiced at Bell's School House in '71-2; and Adolphus Pearson, in '73-6. John B.

Saunders continued his practice until his death in '78. *The Grange,* a national agricultural society, ran a store.

At Double Springs, Jim Petty, now without a competitor, continued in the mercantile business. J. R. McMullin was still practicing medicine; and for one year, '72, Sam Robinson and S. M. Rainey practiced here.

In that year George and Walter Leverett killed Rhet Thompson, about two miles southeast of Double Springs. Walter escaped; George won acquittal.

In beat 4, the little "towns" were still in existence. At Steelville, Peter Quinn was running his store, and the Masonic brethren were meeting on the upper floor of the Big Creek Methodist church.

At Whitefield, the physicians were W. B. Barron, Josiah Walker, J. W. Edwards, and R. K. Prewett who left before '79; the dentist was William Edwards. The four big store-buildings were a contrast with the small stocks. According to my recollection, Walker Bros., Barron & Neal, Hannah & Co., and Abe Harrison were the merchants. Hiram Thompson and J. M. Cain had shops.

In the opinion of some persons, a good many rough characters lived in the Whitefield community. About 1872, W. F. Seitz shot and killed one Bostick. Occasionally fights occurred even at the justice-of-the-peace court. At the court, some time in '73, two lawyers, both desperate men, had a quarrel; one (D. B. Archer of Chester) shot the other (Hamp Turner, who lived near Whitefield). Turner recovered.

Whitefield had a postoffice. The town was enjoying its greatest prosperity.

In beat 1, as in beats 2 and 5, the farmers contended against negroes drunk on Scalawag freedom. Farm property deteriorated, and crops were usually small. Starkville, as we have

seen, was entering a period of prosperity. To enjoy its opportunities and to escape Republican dominance, a good many people moved into town. As the loyal Southern whites, thus augmented, could dominate the town, the Republicans never captured Starkville.

No list of officers is available. The following, however, served:

As mayor, Thomas Gillespie (1869-71), a Democrat appointed by the Military authorities; Y. H. Harrington, 1870; H. A. McCreight, 1871; Y. H. Harrington (1872-76).

As marshal, W. H. Chiles, 1870; W. C. Gunn, 1871; John Jacobs, an unexpired term, 1872; W. O. Page, 1873; Jim Watt, 1874; John Henkel and H. B. Hansell, '75-'78.

As clerk, W. J. Rosseau, 1877.

Until 1875 Lee Stillman edited the *Oktibbeha New Era,* and through the period W. H. Cochran continued *The East Mississippi Times.*

The physicians were W. N. Ames, R. P. Pearson, E. P. Connell, and J. W. Caldwell. The lawyers here during the 60's continued in practice.

In 1872, H. L. Muldrow and James Graves, close friends, had a quarrel. A little later the same day, they met, both armed; each shot the other. A bullet made a scorching flesh wound under Muldrow's left arm; three bullets struck Graves, two breaking his arms, the third bullet killing him. The tragedy took place just east of the courthouse, on Main street. Mr. W. O. Page was a very close witness. Muldrow was never indicted.

During this period, business men had difficulty in securing money. As late as 1875 only one man in the community had accumulated extra money; and he could accommodate only a few.

In 1877, Homer C. Powers established the Starkville Bank. This was hardly a bank, as we understand the word. It was merely the institution in which Powers transacted his private business, unregulated by the State; for no banking laws were in effect at the time. The "bank" lent little, if any money to the white farmers, who secured now, as formerly, money for crop-making from the Mobile commission merchants.

In 1875, Col. Wm. B. Montgomery, always interested in live-stock and in community development, established *The Livestock Journal.* Both practical and literary, Montgomery made the paper very interesting and instructive.

Both in Starkville and in the county at large, relations between the races had been growing less kindly since '69 when the Republicans captured the State. One cause was emancipation. Naturally the negroes came more and more to practice independence; and, to preserve their own independence, the whites furthered the negroes' aspirations especially in religious matters. By 1871, most of the negro members of the white churches had withdrawn and were establishing churches of their own. The negro membership of Salem had fallen from a great majority to only forty-seven out of a total membership of one hundred and eighty-five. Separation was going on, I am sure, in most, if not all, the churches in the county. The pastor and members of Bethesda encouraged the negroes to withdraw and enjoy control of the negro church—incidentally leaving the whites to control unhamperedly Bethesda.

Another cause was the propaganda spread by Northern people who in small numbers were settling in the county. Some supplanted the Southern whites as teachers of negro schools, some even lived in social equality with the negroes,

and some incited the darkeys against their old friends, the Southern whites.

One of these radicals was "Shirt Wilson." He preached and taught at Chapel Hill and in his zeal for the "down-trodden," married a negro woman. Another, named Shelly, lived with negroes in the same community.

The Leake family were obnoxious agitators. T. J. Leake, his wife, his father-in-law, and his sister-in-law (an unmarried woman) settled in Starkville and lived in terms of social equality with the negroes, eating and sleeping with them. Leake preached to the negroes; and the family taught a negro school. They taught the darkeys that the Southern white people had driven and oppressed the slaves—that the Yankees had freed them; that the rights of the negroes were superior to those of the Southern whites; that it was the duty of the blacks to help keep the Southern whites down; that they should report their grievances to the Freedmen's Bureau. In short, the Leakes encouraged the negroes to distrust their old masters as enemies and to trust the Yankees; to obey the Carpetbaggers. Leake became president of the board of police. He died in office. The negroes buried him and a negro preacher officiated at the funeral. Our people so detested him that they would have nothing to do with him when living or dead.

Another man of the same kind was McLaughlin. He too was a preacher. At his suggestion, the negroes established a store for negro patronage alone, and put him in charge. The store was on the north side of Main street, on the west side of Washington, near the courthouse. The man boarded with a negro politician Andrew Campbell, and associated only with negroes.

When the negroes and Carpetbaggers began to fill State

and county offices and the negroes began to be impudent to their former masters, many true Southern men in the county organized a chapter of the Ku Klux Klan, as true Southern men were doing throughout the South. They did what they could to secure Southern ideals and government.

So far as I can recall, the Klan committed only one act of violence in the county; that was an assault on the notorious McLaughlin, with the purpose of killing him. He was barricaded in a brick store just west of the courthouse. He was so well prepared for the assault, with sacks of shelled corn piled against the windows and doors, that the Klansmen were unable to take him. (He was so frightened, however, that "never did man pray as that man prayed!" one of the Klansmen still living tells me.) The Klansmen gave him three days to get out of the county; he got out the next day and never came back.

On another occasion the Klan planned to kill a Southern man, a Scalawag, because he was constantly inciting the negroes in order to get office. A young Klansman rode north a mile or two in order to guide the party, who were to make the assault, to their victim. His regalia frightened every negro he met, who went scurrying off the road into the bushes. The Klansman failed to keep the appointment. The Scalawag consequently escaped death.

A very clear picture of certain incidents which took place in Starkville between 1871 and 1876 is contained in the following statement given me by Mr. H. G. Doxey in March, 1923.

"I left my home in Cheltenham, England, in June, 1869; and after having lived at Staten Island, Chicago, Osage Mission (Kansas), and Okolona and Meridian (Mississippi), I arrived in Starkville in November, 1871.

"About two weeks after my arrival the following incident

happened between the whites and the negroes, on a day when the weather was so fine that most of the whites had gone fishing. A procession of about seven hundred negroes entered the town, following a wagon apparently loaded with corn, but actually loaded with shotguns. Seeing no Yankee at hand, but spying me, a new-comer, Captain McCreight asked me to go talk to the negroes; for they would probably take me for a Yankee and listen to what I should say. I went to the courthouse, where the negroes had stopped.

"While I was talking to them, a white man named Ellis approached. He had been deputized by a magistrate to arrest two negroes, who happened to be in the crowd. The negroes resisted arrest; and when Ellis was passing within five feet of me, some negroes said, 'This is the scoundrel.' Then they commenced firing at him; some knocked him down; he received a slight wound in the shoulder, but fought his way out. Then he turned and shot a negro, Samson Hogan, in the lung. Ellis fled the country immediately, supposedly he went to Texas, we never heard of him again. The negroes, now highly excited, threatened to take the town.

"Some of the whites had their own thoughts about the matter. Mr. Wiley N. Nash took the initiative, bought all the ammunition in the stores, and posted eight men—two north, two south, two east, and two west of the negroes—each white man armed with a shotgun loaded with buckshot. Then Nash told the negroes to make tracks home.

"Now Capt. Powers got up to speak. Powers was sheriff. One of the negroes shot him. Powers was carried home. Though his wound was made with buckshot, it proved to be slight. Soon the negroes left.

"That evening the whites organized for fear that the negroes would attempt to carry out their threat. Many sat up all

night—watching, thinking. Apparently the negroes gave up the idea; they made no motion at this time.

"On another occasion a column of negroes started toward the town. The whites secured a cannon and prepared for battle. The negroes gave up the idea of marching through the streets, for they took another route. This averted a battle.

"The great fire of April 25, 1875, burned the entire business district of Starkville. It began about ten o'clock at night; Asbury Lee and I, who were out serenading, discovered it. Smoke and flames were beginning to rise on the west side of Lafayette street, about a hundred feet south of Main, near where Martin's hardware store is today.

"Without fire equipment and with wind blowing to the northwest, the people were unable to stop the fire. It burned itself out, destroying the following stores and business houses:

"On the west side of Lafayette—Dr. Carley's brick building, in which the fire started; then a frame building, belonging to Lewis Martin, in which I had a work-shop; then a building owned by Billy Gunn, father of W. C. Gunn.

"On the west side of the street—Buck Chiles' livery stable.

"On the south side of Main street, beginning opposite the courthouse—J. O. Henry's place of business, where Blumenfield and Fried have their store; next, to the east, a brick store; next, a building owned by Buck Chiles and Jim P. Curry—had a stairs going up on the outside; a building with 120 ft. front, formerly used as a livery stable, owned by W. B. Montgomery; Dr. Carley's store; store where Phillip Goodman's stands now; Dr. Carley's place of business—replaced by the first brick store built after the fire; a three-story building—Davenport and McDowell ran a drug store on the first floor; the Odd Fellows used the second; the Masons, the third—stood where Ike Katz

store is; the store occupied by old man Sanders; finally, Strauss' dry goods store, where the Bell Cafe stands.

"Beginning with the site of the Peoples Savings Bank and going east—the business house of old man Newman; the bake-shop operated by Carlyle; the store occupied by Lewis Martin; a little dry goods store; then leaping a vacant lot used by Chiles the livery-man, a little work-shop used by John H. Stillman.

"On the north side of Main, from west to east—the court-house (a brick building with a shingle roof); a small frame store-building; a building owned by C. R. Montgomery and J. A. Montgomery, where Scales' store is; sweeping a vacant lot owned by Bill James, a drygoods store; the law office of Dennis and Pilcher; and on the corner, the store owned by John Beattie.

"Beginning with the site of Puller's Drug Store and going east—the grocery store of old man Mid Owen and James A. Valentine; skipping a vacant lot, the drygoods store of Hogan and Ames; the store occupied by Rosseau; leaping the hotel yard, the Caldwell hotel. The fire died out just before reaching the corner; hence did not burn Judge Bell's house, which stood where the Chester hotel is today.

"In all fifty-two buildings burned. The loss was complete; all the insurance was in insolvent companies."

Even as late as 1875 animus flourished between the Scalawag-negro party and the loyal Southerners. The negroes maintained a threatening attitude, and now and then parties marched through town with drums and guns. For this negro insolence, the Red-Shirted Volunteer Cavalry and similar organizations were responsible. Negro domination continued in this county, even after its overthrow in most other counties.

Our whites, however, began to recover this territory in 1875. Wiley N. Nash of Starkville ran for district attorney

on the Democratic ticket. No one expected his election. Violence obtained in Lowndes and Noxubee, the most populous negro counties; many negroes were afraid and did not go to the polls. The election went off smoothly in Oktibbeha—it may be, we counted more Democratic votes in beats 2 and 5 than were cast. Nash won.

Occasionally during this period, Yankee soldiers would appear on the streets of Starkville, to arrest persons charged with violation of Federal law. Owing mainly to the kindly feeling of the Federal Judge, convictions never followed the arrests.

The last show of concerted negro animus occurred at Chapel Hill in beat 5. It is known as the Chapel Hill riot. The negroes had continued their noisy night-marchings. The whites determined to stop them. One night in 1876 a large number of negroes assembled in Chapel Hill church. They had shotguns; and they made a great deal of noise. Quietly some white men moved into the road before the church. They had pistols. The whites, standing in the road, had the protection of the banks; the negroes were excellent targets, when having discovered the whites, they rushed from the church. Shots were exchanged. The negroes shot too high. The volley of the whites scattered the darkeys in all directions. Some persons have said thirty or forty negroes were wounded; probably only twelve or fifteen were hurt, and most very slightly. One negro, Jeff Gregory, was mortally wounded. Three or four were so badly hurt that they called for medical attention; the others, fearing to reveal their identity, suffered alone until they got well.

The Chapel Hill riot was not a big battle, but it had tremendous effect. The next day many white men, even from

forty miles away, were on the field. The negroes were so terrorized that, without further struggle or display, they surrendered the field of political dominance in Oktibbeha to loyal Southern whites.

CHAPTER X

A DRIFT TO TOWN: 1878-1890

IN the election of 1877, the Democrats regained control of Oktibbeha County, placing their men in nearly all the offices. After thirteen years of military, Carpetbag-negro, and Republican rule, the loyal Southerners recovered the liberties of self-government; and ever since, they have retained absolute control of all offices.

A complete list of the men who held office between 1878 and 1890 is not available, but most of the names, especially of those men who held the major offices, are accessible.

Our legislators were as follows:

In the Senate—

1878-80, F. G. Barry, representing Clay, Oktibbeha, and Lowndes.
1880-82, Dr. J. L. Creigler, representing Clay and Oktibbeha.
1884-88, H. L. Burkitt, for Clay, Oktibbeha, and Chickasaw.
1886-88, J. W. Barron, for Clay, Choctaw, Webster, and Chickasaw.
1888-90, Alvin A. Montgomery, for Clay, Oktibbeha, Choctaw, and Webster.

In the House—

1878-80, Rev. W. R. Rainey and Dr. J. S. Montgomery.
1880-82, Dr. J. G. Carroll and (W. R. Rainey?).
1882-84, Dr. J. S. Montgomery and T. J. Wood.
1884-86, W. N. Nash and J. S. Montgomery.
1886-88, J. H. Askew and Thomas B. Carroll.
1888-90, Dr. J. G. Carroll and Rev. W. R. Rainey.

These men represented the best element of our people. The senators, alternately from Clay and Oktibbeha, enjoyed the respect of all classes. Barry, who lived at West Point, inherited unusual abilities, was a brilliant speaker, and became

a member of Congress. Creigler lived in beat 5 of Oktibbeha County; he was a farmer and a physician; he had a large circle of friends; and he was the father of substantial citizens—Louis, a physician, and A. Sid, a dentist.

Burkitt, who lived fifteen miles west of West Point, was a practical and literary man, a farmer and the author of several publications. *Burkitt's Maxims and Guide to Youth,* 1882, was popular. He was the father of Frank Burkitt of Okolona, editor and later member of the Legislature. Montgomery lived at Osborn. A native of South Carolina, he came to Oktibbeha in 1851; became a farmer, raising cotton, corn, horses and cattle. In 1890, he married Lulu, daughter of Robert and Anne (Oliver) Muldrow.

Our representatives in the House were Southern white men of superior type. The Rev. W. R. Rainey was a Methodist local preacher who lived at Longview. He was the father of Dr. D. E. Rainey, the well-known veterinarian of Starkville. Jesse Montgomery, son of Dr. Charles and brother of D. H. Montgomery was for many years a prominent medical practitioner in Starkville. J. G. Carroll, prominent physician and farmer of beat 5, represented Oktibbeha three times in the Legislature; during his third term, he was a resident of Starkville T. J. Wood was a lawyer and for years the editor of *The Starkville News,* and was a good man. His son, D. H. Wood, is working in *The News* office. W. N. Nash was a lawyer and later attorney-general. He was the father of Harry (died unmarried) and Evie (wife of W. F. Hand, State Chemist). Askew, a one-legged Confederate veteran, was a planter, lived near Sessums, and later became railroad commissioner.

The general county officers were: Sheriff—Peter Quinn, '78-'80; Hub. T. Saunders, '80-'90. Circuit Clerk—W. A. Hale, '78-'80; Thos. M. Cummings, '80-'90. Chancery Clerk—W. E.

Saunders, '78-'80; Charles E. Gay, '80-'90. Treasurer—Wilkinson, '78-'80; J. H. Askew, '80-'82; Simeon Pierce, '82-'84; Arthur F. Davis, '86-'90. Superintendent of Education—L. A. Fort, '78-'90. Tax Assessor—R. D. Cooper, '78-'80; S. B. Critz, '80-'84 and '86-'90; J. A. Cotton, '84-'86.

Nearly all these men were Democrats. Only two were Republicans—W. E. Saunders and W. A. Hale, who, being district officers, had entered office in '76 for a four-year term.

Peter Quinn, who lived about fourteen miles west of Starkville, had settled in the county years before the War; he had been a captain in the Mexican war. His residence is standing yet. Many of his relatives are living in the county—good people. Hub. T. Saunders came here from Carroll County, operated a store at Double Springs, later lived in Starkville. He was a brother of Dero, John, and ..... (who became Mrs. Turnipseed). His children were Hub. T. Jr. (deceased), who married Alice Stacy of West Point, Lizzie who married Will Gunn, and Robert P.

Thomas Cummings, a resident of Double Springs, was a farmer; he was very popular and served as circuit clerk for twenty consecutive years.

Charles E. Gay (1843-1922), son of J. H. Gay, was a graduate of the University of North Carolina, a broadly read man, the owner of two thousand acres at Black Jack, "for a time the most popular man in the county," chancery clerk for twenty consecutive years. He married Mary, sister of W. W. Scales, Sr.; their children are Charles E. Jr., Lucy (deceased wife of J. W. Fox), Nathaniel (physician, Whistler, Ala.), Margaret (deceased wife of F. L. Wier), Mary (Mrs. J. C. Herbert), Belle, (deceased wife of Atlas F. Rush), and three unmarried daughters—Misses Emily, Sidney, and Mildred (deceased).

Wilkinson lived in the county just a short time. Modest

and pious, he won many friends. Wilkinson was, however, unable to make the bond, so he retained the name of treasurer, but surrendered the responsibilities and privileges of the office to D. H. Montgomery. A good many citizens went on Montgomery's bond. Montgomery defaulted and left the county. One or two bondsmen made no payment on the forfeited bond. Most, however, acted in the spirit of that honest man, who when asked what he would do, exclaimed, "Pay, by G . .! Learn a lesson, and never sign another bond!"

J. H. Askew lived at Sessums. He married Willie Sharp. They had two daughters—Willie Sharp (deceased) and Mary, who is Mrs. Frank Owen of Columbus. Simeon Pierce was a good man, a devout Baptist. Some of the older citizens remember his prayers, always beautiful and usually concluding with the petition "When done with the time and fellowship of earth, save us with an everlasting salvation, Amen." Pierce married Lucy, daughter of Churchill Carpenter. Some of the children are Will, the hardware merchant; Mamie (Mrs. Chambers), and Clarence (died in 1929).

Arthur F. Davis worked with W. W. Scales for years. He was a good man. He was a half-brother of Ole, Elmer, and Graves Davis.

L. A. Fort lived two miles west of Starkville. R. D. Cooper was a surveyor; he surveyed a great deal of the county.

Sam Critz is a son of Archie and a nephew of Peter. He is a brother of George, who moved to Texas; of John, who married Dell Walker; and of Laura, the wife of W. O. Page. After a course at Mississippi College, Sam taught four schools consecutively, each for four months. In the early 80's he was farming several miles west of Starkville. He has always been popular. He married Laura Stanton, of Alabama; their chil-

dren are Bessie (Mrs. George Lanier), Stark, and Lida (Mrs. Marvin Geiger).

J. A. Cotton was a resident of the Self Creek neighborhood. He probably won many votes by his humorous phrases: "Cotton is good and long-staple cotton is very good—I am long-staple cotton!"

The members of the board of supervisors, all Democrats, were: for beat 1—J. P. Rogers, J. M. Ware, H. A. McCreight, and R. A. Lampkin; for beat 2—J. C. Rand, J. J. Culpepper, and J. E. Love; for beat 3—A. J. Davis, Jas. McIlwain, W. H. Cunningham, and H. L. Bridges; for beat 4, Elijah Ray, Robert Craig, J. B. Fondren, Pilate Hunt, and the Rev. N. Q. Adams; for beat 5—Robert H. Spencer, A. P. Bray, Dossey W. Outlaw, Sr.

Those who served as president of the board were J. P. Rogers, '78-82; A. P. Bray, '82-4; H. A. McCreight, '84-8, and J. E. Love, '88-90. McCreight, once a 1st lieutenant in Company K, 35th Mississippi, had become a captain. He was a prominent farmer. He was the father of Calvin and George who have for many years been among our best known citizens. Bray was an influential farmer of beat 5; some of his relatives reside in the county today. Rogers had been captain of Company L, 48th Mississippi; became partner of Pearson in the drug business in Starkville; built the house long occupied by George Hartness. Love had been a member of the Plow Boys in the War, was a farmer, was the father of D. W. Love of Osborn.

The other members, too, were all prominent citizens. Ware had been a captain in the Confederate army and later became a State Masonic lecturer. Lampkin, son of the first sheriff, was just beginning a long and influential career; he married Mary E. Rand; their children are Evans (deceased)

and Allee (Mrs. Bonner). Rand, a brother-in-law of Lampkin, operated a farm near Osborn. Culpepper, son of John, was a successful farmer in the same community. Davis, also a farmer, was active in politics, and later served as county treasurer. McIlwain, likewise a farmer, was the father of McD. McIlwain. Ray, who lived near the Choctaw County line, was a farmer. Craig, a bachelor, settled in the southern part of the county; a good and influential man—his fame is perpetuated in the name of the settlement, Craig Springs. Fondren was a prominent resident of the Sturgis community; Charles Edwards killed him about 1905. Pilate Hunt, the father of Obe Hunt, was "one of the finest men that ever lived in the county." Spencer was a son of one of the very early settlers, Robert Spencer, Sr. He married Margaret Outlaw; their children are Margaret (Mrs. Johnson), Clara (Mrs. Turner), and Robert, Dossey, and William. Bray was a farmer. Some of his descendents live in the county today. Outlaw was the son of Dossey A. Outlaw, the original settler. He married Lucy Sessums, daughter of David Sessums. Their children are Hattie, Dossey W., Joe (deceased), Lucy (deceased), Blanche (Mrs. Armstead), and Clara (deceased).

In 1878 Mr. James O. Gunn built a telegraph line from Starkville, along the M. & O. Railway, to Artesia, there connecting with the Western Union wires. This was the second telegraph line in the county; the first was along the Robinson highway in beat 5 about 1850. Gunn sold his line to W. H. Chiles for his son R. H. Chiles. The young man operated it until 1883, when he tore it down because another party was building a line from the southwest, along the newly built Illinois Central branch, through Starkville to Aberdeen, and probably because the Western Union company was arranging to establish a line from Artesia to Starkville.

In 1878, the Legislature, cooperating with the Federal government, authorized the building of the Agricultural and Mechanical College. A number of towns bid for the location, offering sites and money. Starkville was successful. One inducement in favor of Starkville was the statement that the town had never tolerated an open saloon. This statement was not true, as our old records show. Another inducement was the offer of several thousand dollars, secured through popular subscription, to supplement a state appropriation for the purchase of land; the county gave about $1,000—it had promised $1,200. Wiley Nash and others canvassed the county.

Col. W. B. Montgomery probably did more than any other man to secure the college for Oktibbeha County. As a member of the locating board, he was in position to do valuable service. Rudolph of Meridian was the contractor. Captain H. L. Ames cooperated with him in financing the project. The buildings were to include an academic building, a science building, a dormitory, one or two barns, and a few residences. The first session of the college began in October, 1880. General Stephen D. Lee was the president. About a hundred students attended. Since the dormitory was not ready for occupancy, the students boarded for several months with almost every family in Starkville, paying ten dollars a month for lodging and food.

In 1883 a hurricane wrecked the new Mess Hall at the College, damaged the dormitory, and killed the steward, Captain Lucas, a native of Starkville. This storm swept northeast, and about a mile from the College destroyed a residence, killed Mrs. Green, and farther on injured several other persons.

About 1881 the Corban Banking Company of New York began to lend our people appreciable sums of money. This company represented a group of European capitalists. The

borrower gave two mortgages; one to the lender, bearing six per cent interest—the other to the Corban bank, bearing four per cent, for negotiating the loan. The notes ran for five years. For a note of $1000, the borrower got only $900, the other $100 paying abstracting and other charges. Yet he had to pay six per cent on the entire $1000.

Fear of Southern conditions caused the high interest-rates. Prior to this time, capital had stood off. Soon other financial companies began to lend money in Oktibbeha. About 1885, the British-American Mortgage Company came in, and soon other companies were lending to us. A little later, some insurance companies made long-term loans. Gradually capitalists loaned more and more freely to the owners of the more fertile and improved lands of the eastern half of the county, then, but very moderately, to the owners of the lighter lands of the western half. About 1883, the C. A. & M. (now I. C.) Railroad was built from Aberdeen to Durant. The railroad put the county into ready touch with territory which before was almost inaccessible, and it caused a noticeable shift in our population. Little towns sprang up along the line, all in 1884.

Muldrow is in section 35, township 20, range 15; it was named for H. L. Muldrow of Starkville who had a farm there. It has always been a flag station.

Osborn is four miles to the southwest of Muldrow, i. e., in section 10, township 19, range 15. In '84 the railroad built a station for the accommodation of this old and thickly settled community. John Montgomery had in '83 established a store, which he operated until 1915.

Pats was the next stop, a flag station four miles on toward Starkville. In honor of Pat (rick) Pierson it bore the name Pats. As a joke, boys frequently added a tail to the letter P, making the word Rats. Provoked, the railroad officials

changed the name to Patrick. No store has ever been right at the station; a good many years ago, Mr. H. H. Sikes who owned the land thereabouts had a plantation store a few hundred yards away.

Longview is eight miles southwest of Starkville. Here also the railroad built a station house in 1884. A good many families had lived in this section for more than thirty years, and only a mile to the southeast, the Green and Outlaw mill was operating for years before the War. The railroad, however, made Longview an appreciable town.

Bradley is the next stop. It is three miles below Longview, and not far from the original Bradley—a postoffice and store operated in 1877 by R. Sullivan and later by a man named Sides. Bradley is in the northwest quarter of township 17, range 13. With the advent of the railroad, the Masons at Steeleville moved the Lodge to Bradley where it has now flourished for forty years. For the same length of time, Jas. E. Brown, the railroad agent, has maintained a store, and for years has operated a sawmill and a gin.

A mile farther southwest is Bugh's flag-stop. It dates, however, only from 1888, when Frank Bugh, a German bachelor, bought three thousand acres and contracted to haul logs, especially piling and timbers for railway bridges, to Huchinson and Oswalt, the mill-owners. Misunderstanding arose; and Bugh, Huchinson, and Oswalt litigated for several years in chancery court. Having made considerable money, Bugh went North, where he married a German woman whom he had known during his youth.

Sturgis is the last stop in Oktibbeha County. The railroad made the town. Some of the families of the southwestern corner of the county moved in to the new station. Whitefield,

as a business center and postoffice, disappeared with the advent of Sturgis, in 1884. The town was incorporated in 1886.

In 1889 the Georgia Pacific Railroad made a survey from Columbus by way of Starkville and Winona to Greenville. Officials of the company said they would build a road through Starkville for $25,000 to be raised by a bond issue. The Starkville charter forbade the issuance of more than $10,000 for any purpose. The town voted $10,000 and called on the county to vote $15,000. The town sent out speakers, in an earnest effort to carry the bond issue; but the country people voted against it overwhelmingly. They had just finished paying off the $15,000 issue for the Starkville-Artesia branch of the M. & O. They felt that the proponents of the branch had tricked them with the promise that the M. & O. would extend through the county, whereas it had extended merely to Starkville. Besides, they had learned that somebody had sold the bonds at a discount of fifty per cent; but they forgot that as a result of a compromise effected through a suit against the road they had redeemed most of the bonds at the fifty per cent discount. In consequence, the Georgia Pacific promptly changed its line, and went from Columbus by way of West Point to Greenville.

This was the greatest economic mistake the county ever made. By the present time, the road would have paid back the $25,000 many times, in augmented trade; besides, the road would be a permanent source for taxes. In a speech in the court house, Mr. Johnson, president of the road, promised positively to build the road through the county—through Starkville—if the people would issue the bonds, for the reason that the Oktibbeha route was cheapest and shortest. Some speakers against the bond-issue argued that $15,000 was too small a sum to change the route and that, since the Starkville route was the shortest by several miles hence considerably the cheap-

est, the company would build through Starkville, issue or no issue. West Point saw its opportunity and, to secure the road, voted an issue much larger than the company had asked of Oktibbeha County.

Down in beat 5, Choctaw Agency was disappearing. The last store closed in 1887, when the owner, T. J. Gray, died. All community life, however, was not gone. In 1881, Miss Febbie Carroll (now Mrs. J. D. Hollinshead) was teaching school here.

Several of the older physicians were practicing in the beat; Creigler, Carroll, Perkins, and Rice. In '82 or '83 W. C. Stiles began his medical practice; he continued to serve the Chapel Hill neighborhood for almost twenty years, until he moved to Starkville. In the early 80's, Dr. F. M. Loper was in the beat for a year or two.

In 1883 or '84 some men hanged two negroes—Ned Mack and Newt Carpenter—in the north half of section 33, township 18, range 15, for poisoning Dorsey and Eddie Parish, twelve- and fourteen-year-old sons of B. J. Paris. The negroes had made themselves liable to suspicion; believing that they could "conjure" Mr. Paris, the negroes had placed a "conjure bag" under his steps. Ned Mack was a "conjure doctor" in the opinion of most colored people. The Parish children died; but I am certain they died of natural causes. This was the opinion of Dr. J. B. Perkins who, though he did not attend them, knew their symptoms by description; the children were sick eight or ten days before they died. The two "conjure" negroes died too.

Up in beat 2, Dr. S. M. Rainey was practicing at Hickory Grove in 1879 or '80, when I first knew him. In a few years he moved away to Mayhew in Lowndes County. And over at

Osborn Dr. Boyd was probably beginning about 1888 his medical practice.

In beat 3, at Trim Cane, the farmers maintained a school. In 1886, A. T. Bridges and J. W. Wade built a mill and gin. This burned. The new mill, on the same site, is owned by the Wofford family.

Over at Double Springs, Dr. Jolen High began the practice of medicine about 1883; he died in 1889.

In 1879, Jim Petty sold the store to J. T. Sherman, who ran it until 1888, when he moved to Maben. There has been no store at Double Springs since.

Maben is on the Oktibbeha-Webster County line; about two-thirds in Oktibbeha, in section 31, township 20, range 12. The first settlers, in 1888, called the place *Good Water;* but when the Columbus and Greenville railroad built a depot there in '89, the officials named the place Maben. The first settlers were the Thomases—Andrew, John, and (Dr.) S. S. Thomas; Dr. S. B. Cook, T. B. Quinn, and a number of merchants, including probably J. T. Sherman. The settlers came mainly from Webster and Chickasaw Counties. Dr. Tom Randle, too, settled here in 1897; he remained until 1893. In 1890, the Legislature granted a charter to Maben.

On April 22, 1883, several tornadoes swept through the northwestern part of the county. The first struck the site on which Maben sprang up five years later; it did much damage to timber. The second hurricane destroyed Wiley Critz's residence five or six miles west of Starkville, but injured no one. The last, which came about noon, destroyed the house of Peter Quinn, a former sheriff, and injured him and his son Forrest.

Some changes were taking place in beat 4.

First, when the Illinois Central ran through the county,

the Masonic Lodge at Steeleville moved to Bradley. Again, at the same time, the folks at Whitefield abandoned the old settlement and moved to Sturgis, a mile to the southwest.

Dr. W. J. Barron continued to practice in this community, as did Dr. J. W. Edwards; Dr. J. W. Crumpton practiced here from '83 to '99.

About 1884, Jarmen, the railroad agent, killed Bob Shropshire.

In 1884, Henry H. Sikes edited *The Sturgis Record*; the paper lasted only two years.

In 1879 J. A. Macon and the Rev. Mr. Ellis taught in the western part of Starkville. From '79 to '81, B. F. Colley had a school in the southwestern part of town, at the intersection of Gillespie and Montgomery streets. In 1879, Dr. Sellers erected the Starkville Institute for Girls. This was a large two-story building, a frame structure, on the spot now occupied by the old public school building. For twenty years, under Sellers' management, this school flourished both as a boarding and as a day school. Sellers sold it to the city in 1892 for $3,000, that it might become a public school. For several years prior to 1891, W. E. Saunders and his wife conducted a school; the building was on Gillespie street about a hundred yards from the intersection with Washington street.

W. H. Cochran ran *The Mississippi Times* until 1882, when he sold out and went to Meridian. The purchaser, the Rev. W. H. Harrison (father of Mrs. Archie Reynolds) edited the paper for a while; then Huggins and Welborn ran it until about 1889. William Ward bought the paper and edited it for many years. Col. Montgomery may have continued *The Live Stock Journal* into this period. About 1878, Col. J. M. Norment (father of the James Norment later prominent in the county) established a political newspaper, *The Oktibbeha*

Citizen; after the Colonel's death in '80, members of his family ran the paper for several years. In time, Fletcher Fondren bought the paper and moved the press and the stock away. In the 80's, W. H. Miller established and edited the *Jimple Jute,* but after two or three years abandoned the paper. In 1886, another paper appeared; this was *The Progressive Farmer.* Of it and of the *East Mississippi Times,* we shall hear more later. In 1890, Edwin Montgomery published *The Southern Stockman.*

In 1887, the Starkville Bank became the First National Bank of Starkville. Homer C. Powers was president and E. L. Tarry was cashier. (E. L. Tarry was a brother of George W. Tarry who was Powers' son-in-law). The captial stock was $50,000, of which Powers held more than half. For several years the average deposits were only about $35,000.

In 1889, a group of local business men organized The Peoples Savings Bank. Col. H. L. Muldrow was the first president; W. W. Scales, the vice-president, and A. C. Ervin, the first cashier.

During this period—1878-1890—several lawyers, of course, practiced in Starkville. Among them were H. L. Muldrow and Wiley N. Nash.

Some of the physicians were J. W. Caldwell and Jesse S. Montgomery.

The ministers were as follows: Presbyterian—A. L. Kline, 1880; G. T. Storey, '83-8; W. R. Raymond, '88 on for many years; Methodist—J. T. Cunningham, E. B. Ramsey, J. S. Oakley, during whose tenure a new church was built; J. H. Scruggs, for a few months; M. G. Augustus; Thomas Cameron, and J. W. Pierce; Baptist—J. T. Freeman, '80-3; E. E. King, '83-6; T. S. Rice, '86-88; W. C. Lattimore, '88-90.

No complete list of the Starkville officers for the period 1878-1890 is now obtainable.

The mayors—The best that I can recall is that W. C. Townsend won the election of 1877 for a one-year term; I know that he won out in December, 1878 for a one-year term, and I think this was his second term of one year. In December, 1879, E. Redus defeated Townsend for a one-year term (beat Townsend 121 to 11 votes). In December 1880, Townsend staged a come-back, defeating Redus for a one-year term. My best recollection is that Townsend served still another term, leaving office at the close of 1882. I know that after he had served several terms, George Gillespie defeated him and became mayor.

City clerks: W. J. Rosseau, H. A. Bell, J. T. Chiles, J. J. Dennis, and J. D. Beattie usually acted.

Marshals: John W. Martin, 1878———; Dr. S. A. Montgomery, 1881———; Thomas Redus.

Starkville was growing. According to the census of 1890, the population was 1725; the assessed valuation of property, $339,882.

The exodus from country to town, which has continued to this day, had begun. The increase in rural population was not so great as that of Starkville. Beats 3 and 4 gained a few people; but the old plantation beats 2 and 5 lost appreciably.

Comparison of census returns for 1880 with those for 1890 shows the shift in population:

Beat	1880	1890	Loss or Gain
5	4,335	4,021	— 314
2	3,506	3,174	— 332
1 (incl. St.)	4,105	5,429	+1324
3	1,871	2,685	+ 814
4	2,161	2,385	+ 224

Within the decade, the white population increased 650; the negro, 2,630. The negro population was 9,304 in 1880, and 11,934 in 1890; the white population was 5,109 in 1880 and 5,759 in 1890.

The assessed value of the property in the county in 1890 was $1,648,973; the value of manufactured products was $83,-570; that of all farm crops, $762,250.

Emphasis then remained on cotton; but, it is noteworthy, that for the first time in the history of the county the farmers were harvesting hay in an appreciable quantity. The principal crops were: cotton, 8,648 bales; corn, 382,138 bushels; Potatoes —Irish, 2,342 bushels; sweet, 30,934 bushels; hay, 2,805 tons.

Three residents of the county sat in the Constitutional Convention of 1890: Col. H. L. Muldrow, of Starkville, as a delegate from the State at large; General Stephen D. Lee, President of the A. and M. College, and Dr. J. W. Edwards, of Sturgis, as delegates from the county.

CHAPTER XI

COOPERATION: 1890-1916

BETWEEN 1890 and 1916, the following men represented Oktibbeha County in the Legislature:

In the Senate—

1890-92, J. R. Nolan (of Clay), for Oktibbeha, Clay and Webster.
1892-94, R. T. Love (of Okt.) for Okt. and Choctaw.
1894-96
1896-1900, N. Q. Adams (of Okt.).
1900-04, J. L. Seawright (of Choc.).
1904-08, W. W. Magruder (of Okt.).
1908-12, J. L. Seawright.
1912-16, H. H. Sikes (of Okt.).

In the House of Representatives—

1890-92, R. P. Washington and S. O. Muldrow.
1892-94, Arthur H. Rice and C. B. Hannah.
1894-96
1896-1900, Dr. J. G. Carroll and Dr. J. W. Crumpton.
1900-04, Arthur H. Rice and
1904-08, J. W. Norment and
1908-12, John Wellborn and N. Q. Adams.
1912-16, John H. Wellborn and C. B. Hannah.

After 1892, Oktibbeha County alternated with Choctaw in selecting the senator. Only half of the men who represented our county were, therefore, residents of Oktibbeha. R. T. Love was a resident of beat 2, a farmer, a good man, and well connected. Adams, as we know already, was a popular Baptist preacher, whose home was at Sturgis. Magruder is a prominent Starkville attorney, a native of Yazoo County, a brother of B. L. Magruder, prominent Starkville dentist; a graduate of the A. and M. College and of the University of

Mississippi. He married Clemie (daughter of J. O. Henry of this county); their children are William, Robert, and Augustine. Sikes was born near Bradley; ran a paper in the 80's at Sturgis; had a stock farm at Pats; was circuit clerk, 1900-08; was postmaster of Starkville. He married a Miss Valentine. Their children are Watt, of Starkville, and Mrs. Peay (deceased).

A few words about the members of the House. Washington is a grandson of Patrick Cromwell; is a large property-owner; was long a resident farmer and merchant of the Bell School House community. He lives in Starkville. He married Miss Boykin; their children are Mrs. Adams and George, Joe, and Dee (deceased). Rice was for forty years physician and farmer of beat 5; married Frances Smith, born in Massachusetts; their children are Capt. A. H. (U. S. N.), Frances (Mrs. F. D. Mellen), Nannie, Joe, Cornelia (Mrs. R. H. Bartran), Harriet (Mrs. H. H. Harned), and Lieut. John W. (U. S. N.). Hannah, a resident of beat 4, is a good man, and was a popular representative. Norment, son of the founder of *The Oktibbeha Citizen,* was the founder of *The Starkville News,* the first president of the M. and F. Bank. He eventually moved to Texas. Wellborn, a native of South Mississippi, came to Oktibbeha in the 80's; has been a farmer, surveyor, and appraiser for the Federal Farm Loan Bank; as member of the legislature, secured passage of law requiring dipping against cattle-tick. He married Lucy Colclough; their children are John, Annie (Mrs. J. S. Rice), Lucy, and Mary Moss. Hannah was a member of an influential family; he was married three times. By his first marriage, to Celia Hunt, he had three children—R. L. father of Mrs. J. D. Greene, Jr.); T. C., and Lenine (Mrs. Dacus of Alabama, deceased). By his second marriage, to a

daughter of Jim Hannah, he had no children. By his third marriage, to Mollie Hunt, he had two sons.

The general county officers were as follows:

Sheriffs: Hub. T. Saunders, '90-'96; McD. McIlwain, '96-1900; Murray Maxwell, 1900--04; McD. McIlwain, '04-'08; T. G. James, '08-'12; Lee Nickels, '12-'16.

Chancery Clerks: Charles E. Gay, 1890-1900; Nick W. Edwards, 1900-'08; Etho McIlwain, '08-'16.

Circuit Clerks: Thomas E. Cummings, 1890-1900; H. H. Sikes, 1900-'08; Mike Fulgham, 1908-'16.

Superintendents of Education: L. A. Fort, '90-'92; W. H. Miller, '92-'04; S. J. Wallace, '04-'08; '08-'12; A. E. Green, '12-'15, dying in office; Emmet Scroggins, '15-'16.

Tax Assessors: S. B. Critz, '90-'92; J. A. Cotton, '92-'94; S. B. Critz, '94-1900; A. E. Buckner, 1900-'08; Jim Lucas, '08-'16.

Treasurers: A. F. Davis, '90-'91; T. E. Gottseilig, '91-'93; A. F. Davis, '93-'96; W. T. Norris, '96-1900; R. M. Cotton, 1900-'04; W. T. Norris, '04-'08; John Kennard, '08-'12; W. H. Hull, '12-'15, died; D. E. Rainey, '15-'16.

Gottseilig, the treasurer, defaulted in 1893. His bondsmen, of whom I was one, had to pay his bond of $7,000. Gottseilig ran away, but later, having returned, accepted a sentence of six months in jail.

The members of the board of supervisors were as follows:

Beat 1—R. A. Lampkin, continuing from preceding period, 1890-1912; J. C. McCreight, '12-'16.

Beat 2—Murray Maxwell, '90-'96; Isaac Winston, '96-1904; A. A. Montgomery, '04-'12; G. G. Thompson, '12-16.

Beat 3—'90-'92; I. Neely, '92-'96; J. R. Fulgham, '96-1904; T. J. Harpole, '04-'08; L. H. Nichols, '08-'12; William Thompson, '12-'16.

Beat 4—B. G. Hutchinson, '90-1900; John Quinn, 1900-'08; Chas. S. Fondren, '08-'12; N. S. Henry, '12-'16.

Beat 5—H. A. Fox, '90-1900; J. F. Stiles, 1900-'04; J. A. Randle, '04-'08; D. W. Outlaw, Jr., '08-'16.

During this long period only three men served as president of the board: Robert A. Lampkin, '90-1904 and '08-'12; Alvin A. Montgomery, '04-'08, and J. C. McCreight, '12-'16.

Lampkin, who became a member of the board first in '88, served continuously for twenty-four years and for eighteen was president. He had business ability; though he failed in the mercantile business at the age of thirty-one, he accumulated a sizeable fortune before his death in 1915. His associates had confidence in his ability and integrity; he was an economical officer. Montgomery, as we have seen, was a man of good family connections, and of business ability; he had served, one recalls, in the Legislature from '88 to '90. McCreight was a prominent farmer; his wife was Eliza Josey; the two children are Louise (Mrs. Gray Bell) and Mabel (Mrs. Walter Wood).

The other members of the board were, of course, popular men, and most were farmers familiar with the needs of their beats. Murray Maxwell was a Civil War veteran. H. A. Fox lived and farmed near Sessums; J. F. Stiles is a farmer, lives about two miles southeast of Sessums. Randle lived near Oktoc; married Fannie Hartness. Their children are Mary Alice (Mrs. John White, deceased); Clara, deceased; Bessie (Mrs. Cecil Bardwell), Fannie (Mrs. J. A. Peay), Allison, Lelia Mae, and Lydia Brooks (Mrs. George Arnold), and Nannie (Mrs. G. W. Carroll).

In April, 1898, the United States declared war against Spain, taking the side of the Cuban revolutionists in their struggle for freedom from Spanish tyranny. A fair number of our young men volunteered. E. D. Yeates and Herris Maxwell give the following list, of those mustered into service, which is probably accurate: James W. Maxwell (Sergeant), Walter B. Yeates (Corporal), Wiley B. Cavanah (Artificer), C. R. Alston, R. G. Davis, C. F. Deitze, Herris Maxwell, H. A. Martin, J. S. Newman, Harry E. Nash, ( ) Stewart, W. L. Thompson, H. H. Turnipseed, Isaac Winston, Ed. J. Yeates.

Between 1890 and 1900, the county gained 2,333 people.

Every beat, except beat 2, registered an increase in population. Beat 5 gained about 400; beat 3, almost 1,000; beat 4, about 800; and beat 1, about 500. The total population in 1900 was 20,027.

Down in beat 5, now that Choctaw Agency was dead, the people engaged almost exclusively in rural pursuits. A few men ran stores; for example, J. D. Gaston and J. D. Hollinshead had small stores about a mile apart in the Oktoc neighborhood. And a few men operated gins; young Dossey Outlaw, Dr. Rice, and John White had a gin on Outlaw's place at which they ginned principally their own cotton. For the most part, the citizens of this beat engaged exclusively in farming; they raised a large part of the cotton and the corn, no little of the hay, much of the molasses and potatoes, and grew many of the fine horses and mules used in this and in neighboring counties.

They managed to keep their churches open. All during this period, they maintained Sunday School and preaching services at Salem, Vernon, Bethesda. Once a month or oftener ministers from the neighboring towns of Crawford, Artesia, and Starkville preached to these congregations. At Salem, the following ministers preached: T. G. Sellers, '91 and '92; A. P. Copeland, '93-'96; W. B. Williams, '96-'98; W. F. Spraggins, '98-1900; H. M. Long, 1900-'01; W. W. Whitfield, for some years; and then J. D. Ray. The clerks were James Hibbler, 1890-'03; W. E. Hagen, '94-'98; J. A. Wiggs, '99, and Dossey Outlaw, '99 on.

At Oktoc school, Miss Pet Perkins taught early in this period; then Miss Melle Kennard (Mrs. Jim Smith); then Miss Mary Alice Randle (Mrs. John White); Miss Bessie Randle (Mrs. Cecil Bardwell); Miss Maude Harrington (Mrs.

Jodie Beverly; Miss Frances Rice (Mrs. F. D. Mellen); and Miss Mary Colclough.

Rice continued his medical practice through this period; and Creigler, down near Crawford, remained in active practice until his death near the end of the period. Stiles practiced at Chapel Hill until 1902 and afterwards at Starkville. Young Dr. Harrison (brother to Mrs. Archie Reynolds) practiced in the beat for one year, about 1913, and then moved to Belzoni.

At Sessums, Peters, Frank Young, John Stiles, J. P. Castles, Askew, Fox, and others were maintaining the enviable reputation the community has always enjoyed. Frye & Frye or Koblentz & Frye operated a store for some years. Koblentz was the father-in-law of G. L. Henderson, hence the grandfather of young Louis Henderson. And J. T. Tomlinson had a store here from about 1907 on for a good many years.

The church (Methodist) and the school were in operation through this period.

Mrs. M. S. Gilmer taught here in '90; and Miss Mary Sessums in '91-'92.

In beat 2, as in the other country sections, the people were engaged primarily in cotton-growing; some, however, were raising a good many cattle for shipment, especially near the close of this period. Of course nearly all were interested in schools, churches, and other social institutions.

At Hickory Grove, Miss B. Carroll and Miss Zadie Smith taught in the 90's.

At Osborn, Alvin A. Montgomery was engaged in stock-raising. J. A. Lamb, who later has occupied high positions in our county schools, taught early in the 90's; and Miss Annie Lizzie Burgin (now Mrs. Lloyd Magruder) had charge of the Osborn school about 1895.

In beat 3, the older settlements—Bell's and Double Springs—had, like Choctaw Agency, about disappeared as trade centers, although the population of the beat was slowly increasing. More and more the people were trading in Starkville and the new town, Maben. At Bell's, R. P. Washington engaged in merchandising. J. C. Bridges taught school here early in the 90's; and about the same time, W. M. Nash practiced medicine here.

Through this period, Maben grew to be an appreciable town. The dominant element has always been law-abiding; yet, when the town was first built, some rough people lived in it and near it.

Occasionally some one killed a negro; and now and then some party killed a white person. I recall the White homicides in the early days. John and Bill Cummings killed John Lynch, Sr.; Bob Neal, deputy sheriff, killed John Lynch, Jr.; Charles Johnson killed Ben Love; Rufe Munch killed one Parker; and Harry Johnson killed a show man. No convictions followed these homicides.

As soon as the town was established, the people of Maben established a school. For more than twenty years they had a frame building, but about 1914, during the superintendency of W. B. Walker, they built a commodious brick school-building. From 1890 to 1916 the following were the superintendents: H. C. Kirby, 1891-'92; J. S. Carroll, '92-'93; T. B. Haney, '93-'94; R. B. Smith, '94-'95; W. B. Stark, '95-'96; J. L. Smith, '96-'02; Hendricks, '02-'03; J. M. Kelly, '03-'07; R. C. Morris, '07-'12; W. B. Walker, '12-'15; G. H. Haflin, '15-'16.

From the founding of the town, the people have had churches. The Baptists built a frame church-house; the Methodists have a brick building.

In 1904, E. Lovett established *The Maben Press,* of which

he has always been the owner and editor. In 1907 several progressive citizens organized the Bank of Maben, a branch of the Bank of West Point. W. T. Norris was president during the first year and vice-president thereafter; J. W. Cook, who succeeded Norris as president, headed the bank for many years.

About ten o'clock on a night in November, 1907, a hurricane wrecked nearly all the stores in Maben and damaged several residences, some very badly. The property-loss was heavy; no one was killed, but a hunter was hurt.

About 1909, Maben secured another railroad—the M. J. and K. C. The road extends through the northwestern part of the town, hence is not in Oktibbeha County.

By 1890 Double Springs had ceased to be a center of population. The church and the school remained. The shops and stores, however, had disappeared. The physicians, too, had died or moved away. Of course many fine people continued to live and to farm in this section.

In 1912 or '13 Clay Howard shot and killed Walter Betts.

J. W. Wade had charge of the school in '93-'94; and Miss Sallie Dean, in '94-'95.

Dr. R. J. McMullin continued his practice far into this period; about 1906, after almost fifty years' medical service to the community, he died. In the late 90's, Edd. McMullin began the medical practice here; he died in 1909. In the late 90's, Dr. Nason practiced a year or two. And about 1913, Dr. F. B. Long began his practice at Double Springs.

Several physicians were at Sturgis. Dr. Richardson was there until December, 1908 when he was killed. Dr. Crumpton lived there until 1899, when he moved to Craig Springs. Dr. C. R. Dodds, also, was in active practice until 1914; then he moved to Starkville to continue his profession. About 1914 young Dr. W. C. Friday began his practice; and about the

same time, Dr. Gray began a practice lasting through four or five years.

In 1909 Hosea Turner, a graduate of the A. and M. College, established *The Search Light,* which he ran for probably a year; and in 1916, J. S. Foreshand ran the *Sturgis Enterprise* for several months.

The population of Sturgis in 1910 was 354.

About this time some of the citizens established the first Bank of Sturgis. The capital stock was $10,000 and eventually the deposits were about $25,000. After having run several years, the bank failed. George Morgan was president; and, I think, the Rev. N. T. Adams was vice-president and John McReynolds was cashier. These men were farmers and knew nothing of banking; but they were honest men, and they paid the depositors out of their private means.

Then in 1913, some business men organized the second Bank of Sturgis, with a capital stock of $10,000. This bank has prospered.

The school at Sturgis has usually been in able hands. Following L. B. Reid, who now heads the splendid school at Houston, Miss Minnie McGraw was principal at Sturgis for the year 1890, and S. W. Smith for 1891 and several years thereafter. Among those who served with especial distinction was W. M. Mangum. Under his management, the school became the first consolidated school in the county.

Like every other district of the county, beat 4 has always had many very fine people; the great majority have always been progressive and law-abiding. And like each of the other beats, beat 4 has contained at one time an element, always a small minority, that have taken the law in their own hands. In the old Whitefield neighborhood, it has been pointed out, a few rough people lived among the law-abiding. In the Stur-

gis community, which absorbed the Whitefield, some rough people, rougher than those at Whitefield, were taking the law in their own hands for a good many years, especially from the middle 90's to 1909 or '10.

Now and then some one killed a negro; and frequently parties, known or unknown, killed white people. About 1898 Jim Bagwell killed S. Edwards and Edd Tumlinson. About 1900 unknown parties killed Peter Sharp; unknown parties killed one Johnson; and unknown parties killed one Hollis; and some one assassinated one Whatley. About the same time Wafer Shaw killed Ellis Woodson—Shaw got five years in the penitentiary. At a memorial exercise in 1905 Hayes and Tilden Petty killed one Deloach; the men got acquittals. About the same time Greeley Ray killed George Ray, and Charles Edwards killed J. B. Fondren. In December 1908, Dyke and Al Edwards killed Dr. Richardson—Al got a change of venue and won acquittal—Dyke got a life sentence, but soon escaped. This Richardson tragedy and its consequences quieted things; and nearly all the bad element moved away. In 1914 two men, newcomers in the community and not at all connected with the old gang, had a difficulty; Sherden shot Kemp, and a few months later Kemp killed Sherden. Today, Sturgis is as quiet and law-abiding as any other part of the county.

Between 1912 and '16, Longview enjoyed what one might call a boom. In 1912, the county established at Longview the county agricultural high school. To help erect the building, Longview floated bonds in the sum of $5,000. Mr. A. M. Blocker, the first principal, served something over one year. Then Mr. John M. Lamb, recently superintendent of the Starkville schools, entered upon the principalship.

In 1913, Longview had its first and only bank. One P. H.

Adams and his brother established the Bank of Longview; at the same time, they were establishing banks at French Camp in Choctaw County, at Prairie in Monroe, and at Brooksville—the last being the Cotton States Bank. These men were adventurers without capital. All four banks failed within a very short time. The Bank of Long View failed within a few weeks. The Cotton States Bank had been in operation only a short time when the people of Brooksville discovered that P. H. Adams was a fraud, and they made a run on the bank. Officers of Monroe County held Adams' brother in jail at Aberdeen. In February, 1914, the grand jury of Noxubee County returned several indictments against P. H. Adams. Adams was convicted on one charge of perjury and on another of having fraudulently received deposits in an insolvent bank. On the twenty-third of February, I sentenced Adams to nine months in the penitentiary on each of these counts. As soon as the jury had returned its verdict, about nine o'clock at night, some of the people in the court house made up a purse and employed William B. Lucas of the Macon bar to circulate a petition for pardon of Adams and to present the same to the Governor. Soon after Adams began to serve his sentence, Governor Brewer pardoned him. The brother, who was in the Aberdeen jail, escaped before time for trial. Officers apprehended him somewhere in Alabama, but he escaped before they could return him to Mississippi for trial.

Craig Springs is a voting precinct in the southern part of the county. It is in the north quarter of section 26, township 17, range 13. An old bachelor named Craig, or Craige, lived there. The place has never had a store, but for many years it had a mill and a school. Some very fine people live in this district. To this place Dr. Crumpton moved from Sturgis in

1899; and here he remained, practicing the medical profession, until 1906, when he removed to Starkville.

In beat 1, a great many interesting events took place between 1890 and 1916. At the A. and M. College, General S. D. Lee retained the presidency until 1899, when he resigned; former Governor Stone succeeded to the presidency, but died after a few months; J. C. Hardy, graduate of Mississippi College and recently superintendent of the Jackson city schools, now entered upon his term of twelve years as president; and upon his resignation in 1912, George R. Hightower became president for four years.

About 1890, John Drake shot and killed Will Hull in Starkville. The homicide occurred on Main street between Lafayette and Jackson streets. Drake was acquitted. A year or two later, about 1892, one Haig shot and killed one Baker, on the sidewalk in front of the southeast corner of the court house. At the trial there was a hung jury; Haig died before the day set for the new trial.

The officers of Starkville between 1890 and 1916 were as follows:

Mayors—E. Redus, 1890; A. Bell, '91-'93; D. A. Bardwell, '93-'98; Frank L. Wier, '99-1901; D. A. Bardwell, who defeated Wier by six votes, '01-'03; J. O. Gunn, '03-'05; J. D. Dean, '05-'09; H. A. Beattie, '09-'11; P. G. Sudduth, '11-'17.

City Clerks—T. M. Cummings, 1901-'05; P. G. Sudduth, '05-'09; Walter Page, '09-'11; N. W. Puller, A. Z. Saunders, and T. J. Gunn, '14 on.

Marshals—John J. Henry, 1891-1900; T. W. Perkins, '00; John S. Saunders, '01-'09; Herris Maxwell, '09-'12; H. K. Rousseau, '12 on.

About August, 1893, the First National Bank of Starkville failed. The deposits were small. E. L. Tarry was the acting

president at the time. The court-charges in no wise implicated Tarry in any wrongful personal gain or in any attempt at wrongful personal gain; but the court did find him guilty of technical violation of the Federal banking laws. The bank had been violating good banking principles; it had been lending money indirectly to the stock-holders on their shares—in fact, it had since its organization loaned most of the deposits to the share-holders. The court sentenced Tarry to a year in the Federal jail at Oxford. He began serving the term, but after a short time received a pardon.

The Peoples Savings Bank prospered. Col. Henry L. Muldrow remained president to 1899, when he resigned. The first vice-president, Capt. W. W. Scales now became president, and served through the rest of this period. M. F. Ames became vice-president. A. C. Ervin remained as cashier; and, upon his retirement from the office of chancery clerk in 1910, Charles E. Gay became assistant cashier.

In 1896 several local business men organized the Security State Bank, with a capital stock of $25,000.00. The organizers were Dero A. Saunders, Robert A. Lampkin (son of the early settler), and Thos. B. Carroll. These men and four others—W. W. Magruder, W. T. Norris, B. M. Walker (son of the early settler), and R. K. Wier—comprised the board of directors. Saunders and Lampkin remained on the board until their deaths in '13 and '15; and Carroll, until his withdrawal from the bank in 1916. The four others remained on the board through the period. W. W. Magruder was the first president, serving through the period; Carroll, the first vice-president, likewise served until 1916. Evans W. Lampkin (son of the director) was cashier until 1910, when he resigned; then A. J. Moore served to 1904, when he quit in order to be-

come secretary of the A. and M. College; then Wirt Carpenter became cashier.

Starkville had creditable schools for whites and for negroes. In 1891, Dr. T. G. Sellers was the principal of the white school, at a salary of $50 a month. His assistants were Miss Bessie Gilliam (later Mrs. George Gillespie) at $30, and Misses Sue Pearson, Robbie McClendon, Susie Burges, and Jennie Warren at $25 a month each. At the same time, Ben Robinson was the principal of the negro school, at $25 a month. His three assistants received $20 a month each. The total salary of the white teachers in '91 was $1,715; that of the negro teachers, $665; a grand total of $2,380.00. The school term was only seven months; including an hour for dinner, the hours were from eight to four until April 1, and from eight to five o'clock thereafter.

The present grammar school building was erected in 1899, and enlarged in 1910. It served through the period for all grades, both grammar and high school.

In this period, the following served as superintendent of the school system: Dr. Sellers, Mr. Hooker, Charles E. Saunders Mr. Woodward, Hugh Critz (from 1901 to 1905), John A. Lamb (1906-1913), and R. C. Morris.

The churches also were active. The Methodist and Baptist congregations steadily grew; and the Presbyterians, of several branches, not only increased in numbers, but, in the first decade of the twentieth century, combined into one church. About 1909, under the leadership of J. Lundy Sykes of Aberdeen, the few Episcopalians of Starkville and the A. and M. College, with financial assistance of persons of various creeds here and elsewhere, organized a church and built a chapel, just off Main street.

The Presbyterian ministers were H. R. Raymond to 1910 and F. Z. Browne from 1910 to 1916.

The pastors of the Methodist church were T. C. Wier (father of R. K. and F. L. Wier), 1891; J. A. Randolph, '92; J. W. Dorman, '93-'96; J. E. Thomas, '96; T. Y. Ramsey, '97; A. P. Sage (father of Mrs. Frank Hogan), '97-1900; R. A. Meek, 1900-'03; H. S. Spraggins, '03-'06; J. W. Dorman, '06-'08; R. H. B. Gladney, '08-'11; W. E. M. Brogan, '11-'14; T. H. Lipscomb, '14-'17.

The Baptist ministers were G. H. Carter, '91-'93; T. G. Sellers, '93 to March 10, '99, when he died; M. K. Thornton, July '99 to July '10; W. A. Jordan, February '11 to November '16. The clerks were W. H. Glenn, until his death in 1903 and J. A. Glenn (his son) thereafter. The deacons, from 1891 on, were M. Maxwell and J. A. Glenn.

Some, if not all, of the lawyers were H. L. Muldrow, T. B. Carroll, W. W. Magruder, G. O. Daniel, Frank Bell, M. A. Saunders, Joe S. Rice, W. E. Ward, J. D. Green, and B. M. Walker, Jr.

The town also had several able physicians: Jesse Montgomery, W. H. Barr, W. C. Stiles, and Sam Scales(graduate of Vanderbilt), who died before the period ended; and Hunter Scales, Frank Barr, C. R. Dodd, J. W. Crumpton, and Fred Ricks (who moved away).

In 1897, R. K. Wier established the first telephone system in the county. His lines served both the residences and places of business in Starkville, and many homes and stores in the country. The exchange was in the Rosseau residence on Main street; and Mrs. Rosseau had charge of it. The service, especially in the country, was almost as good as the service of the present system. In 1905, Wier sold his equipment to the Bell Telephone Company.

About 1900 two railroad men, each in charge of a freight train, and both non-residents of the county, had a serious difficulty where the I. C. railroad station is. One named Miller shot and killed the other. The jury acquitted Miller.

During the decade of 1890-1900, Starkville gained about two hundred in population. According to the Federal census, the town now had 1986 people.

In 1902, J. W. Norment established *The Starkville News.* After some months, he sold the paper to Thomas Wood, who ran it until his death in 1916. About 1903, Col. A. G. O'Brien established *The Starkville Banner,* and the Rev. W. H. Harrison (father of Mrs. Archie Reynolds) became the editor. After a year or two, O'Brien sold the paper to Wood, editor of *The News,* who discontinued *The Banner.*

In the fall of 1904, two men who had exercised great influence in the town and the county died; these were Col. H. L. Muldrow and Col. W. B. Montgomery.

In 1907 a good many citizens, feeling the need for other financial facilities, organized The Merchants and Farmers Bank. James W. Norment was the first president, and Atlas F. Rush (son-in-law of Chas. E. Gay), was an early, perhaps the first cashier. When Norment moved to Texas, John B. Kennard became president; and upon Kennard's death, Homer C. Powers (son of the founder of the First National Bank), became president.

In the early months of 1909, three tornadoes, passing through parts of beat 1, destroyed property and life. The first storm struck on February 14. About four miles of Starkville, it destroyed much timber and some negro cabins; in its path northeastwards, it injured several negroes; about five miles north of Starkville, it wrecked the residence of Capt. George Dillard and injured the Captain; and a little farther on, at the

edge of Trim Cane swamp, it destroyed Dick Coleman's house. Coleman built a new residence almost immediately.

In the evening of April 6, two storms fell on widely separated parts of the beat. In the late afternoon, a hurricane struck about five miles west of Starkville. It cut a path parallel to that of the February tornado for several miles; then, swerving eastward, it crossed the path of the earlier storm; and then turning northeast, it continued its path of destruction for several miles. It was violent; it destroyed much timber and even stripped the bark from the small bushes it left standing; three miles northwest of Starkville, it wrecked Will Pierce's house, as the family fleeing for life found safety in a storm-pit; a little farther on, where it crossed the path of the February hurricane, it destroyed Coleman's new residence; and as it rushed northeast, it continued to wreck houses, and here and there, to kill a few negroes. The next day, I followed the path; the destruction was awful.

In the meantime, about eight o'clock on the evening of April 6, another storm, starting at the A. and M. College, rushed northeast, strewing wreckage along its path. At the College, it damaged the old Chapel (where the flag-pole now stands), tore away the southeast corner of the new Chapel (then being built), blew off much of the roof of the Engineering building and damaged several residences. After crossing into beat 2, the hurricane destroyed some barns and several cabins.

The storms of April 6 were severe. The destruction was great. Many negro families lost everything they possessed except life and limb and the clothes on their backs. Destitute, they appealed to the public for help; and the public responded liberally, giving clothes, furniture, cooking utensils and money.

Not long afterwards, about 1910, another hurricane razed W. H. Curry's residence, two and a half miles northwest of Starkville.

The first automobiles in the county appeared about 1904. Prof. Albert Barnes, of the College, owned the first car in the county. Allie Rand, Willis Garth and Scott soon afterward had cars. One of the early cars was a little red Maxwell, able to make about twenty miles an hour. The number of cars increased slowly; yet they and the mounting traffic between the College and Starkville prompted some progressive citizens, by means of public subscriptions, to build a narrow gravel road between the two places, the first hard-surfaced road in the county.

According to the Federal census, in 1910 the county had 19,676 people distributed as follows: beat 5, 4,270; beat 2, 2,492; beat 3, 3,726; beat 4, 3,079; beat 1, 6,109. Maben had 539; Sturgis, 321; Starkville, 2,698.

In 1913, the farmers of the county produced more than 13,000 bales of cotton. After that time, the boll-weevil having infested their fields, they had increasing difficulty in producing cotton and began seeking some other commodity which they could produce profitably. A few of the more progressive ones now looked with favor upon a plan long advocated by Prof. J. S. Moore, of the College; and about 1914, they organized a cooperative creamery; the College let them have floor-space. The A. and M. cooperative creamery was the organized beginning of the dairy industry of Mississippi.

In the fall of 1914, the Great War in Europe cut off the greater part of the world market. Millions of bales of cotton, which in normal times would have gone to Germany, France, and England, remained in American warehouses or on the farms. For a time, the price of cotton dropped to five or six

cents a pound, with few buyers. To help the Southern farmers, many well-meaning persons, both North and South, urged every man who was financially able to "Buy a bale!" Gradually conditions improved; the price of cotton increased moderately, for all the warring nations needed cotton not only for the manufacture of cloth, but for the making of high explosives.

CHAPTER XII

FRUITS OF THE GREAT WAR
1916-1924

THE senator for 1916-20 was a citizen of Choctaw County. Perkins and Daniel, who completed Perkins' term, are Oktibbeha men. Perkins is the grandson of Dr. J. O. Perkins of beat 5 and the son of J. B. Perkins who has been prominent in our business life for years; the senator is a graduate of the A. and M. College and of the University and a lawyer; resigning his seat in the senate in 1922, he moved to Texas. He married Annie Muldrow, of beat 2; their children are Dorothy Anne, Louise Adelle, and John B. III.

Daniel is the son of J. N. Daniel; he was born in beat 4; he has property there; he is a forceful lawyer, prominent in county life; recently he became pesident of the M. and F. bank of Starkville. He married Miss Bertha Hack, of Kansas City, a graduate nurse, formerly employed at A. and M. College.

Our representatives in the House for this period were Joseph S. Rice and H. H. O'Bannon, '16-'20; and Buz M. Walker, Jr., '20-'24, and J. D. Greene, '20-'24. Rice was born in beat 5, son of Dr. A. H. Rice, grandson of J. W. Rice, and is a graduate of the University of Miss. and of the Cumberland Law School. He married Annie, daughter of John Wellborn; they have no children. O'Bannon, son of Ben O'Bannon, attended the Agricultural High School at Longview; he is a farmer. He married Miss Tabb of Webster County.

Walker, a son of B. M. Walker, of the A. and M. College, is a graduate of that school, of the University of Virginia, and of the Harvard Law School. He is a lawyer and is interested in Jersey cattle. Young Walker married Miss Nancy Patty of Macon; their children are Nancy and Mary. Greene was born in the western part of the county; he is a graduate of the University of Mississippi; (upon the death of T. B. Carroll, Greene became by appointment circuit judge for the unexpired term); he is a Starkville lawyer. He married Celia F., daughter of R. L. Hannah of Sturgis; their children are Frances Stone and Margaret.

During this period our county officers have been as follows:

Sheriffs: T. G. James, '16-'20; W. W. Hastings, '20-'24; chancery clerks—Etho O. McIlwain, '16-'20; J. R. Long, '20-'24; circuit clerks—Mike Fulgham, having completed a service of twelve years, retired in '20; J. A. Clardy, '20-'24; superintendent of education—Emmet Scroggins, continuing in office, '16-'24; tax assessors—Gray Bell, '16-20; O. Ray, '20-'24; treasurers—Albert Jordan, '16-'20; Vester Skelton, who died soon after assuming office, and Morris Cohen, '20-'24.

Most of these men were residents of the western half of the county, but since assuming office, a good many have resided permanently in Starkville. James, a Starkville man, was now sheriff for the second time. Hastings, reared south of Starkville, is a farmer and stock man. McIlwain, whose home was in beat 3, is a school teacher and farmer. Long, born in Choctaw County, was a merchant at Sturgis at the time of his election. Fulgham came from beat 3; is a farmer; married a Miss Cazwell. Scroggins, the son of C. M. Scroggins and Elvina Yates, is a school teacher. Bell married a daughter of

Calvin McCreight. Ray is a farmer, was born near Sturgis; married a Miss McIlwain.

Albert Jordan was paralyzed in his lower limbs; Skelton was drawn almost double with rheumatism; and Cohen, a resident of Starkville, and a newspaper reporter, is a cripple.

The members of the board for this period are: for beat 1—J. C. Page, '16-'24; for beat 2—G. G. Thompson, continuing from preceding period, '16-'24; for beat 3—J. L. Neely, '16-'24; for beat 4—W. S. Henry, continuing, '16-'24; for beat 5—D. W. Outlaw, Jr., continuing, '16-'20, and T. H. Peters, '20-'24.

Outlaw was president of the board for '16-'20, and Page is president for '20-'24. Outlaw is the son of Dossey W., Sr., and Lucy Outlaw, daughter of Isaac Sessums. He was born at the old homestead on the Macon road, where he lives now, in 1878; engaged in pharmacy in New Orleans; returning to Oktibbeha, married Clara Spencer Harvey. They have one child, Ada Lee, graduate of the State college at Columbus. Outlaw is a planter with good business judgment. Page is the eldest child of W. O. Page and Laura Page (nee Critz); has been for many years a prominent business man of Starkville—a seed-dealer and money-lender. He married the widow of M. E. Smith of Kosciusko (nee Martha Carpenter, of Starkville). They have two children—Curtis, Jr., and Jack.

The other members of the board are all outstanding citizens. G. G. Thompson is a prominent farmer; lives at Hickory Grove; and married Jane Blankenship. They have eight children—a son, W. B., Edna (Mrs. H. B. Blankenship), Annie (Mrs. Henry McCollum), Pearl (Mrs. George Edwards), Polly (Mrs. G. C. Smith), Ada (Mrs. T. N. Thimpson), Gracy (Mrs. H. C. Thompson), and Ruth (Mrs. T. W. Hodnett).

Neely is the son of Isaiah Neely, and Mattie Wyrick; lives at Self Creek; is a farmer; married Lou Thompson.

Their daughter, Verna, is married, and no longer a resident of the county. Henry, too, is a successful farmer; he lives at Morgantown, southeast of Sturgis; married a sister of Charley Morgan. They have several children; (a son, Archie, is employed at the A. and M. College).

Peters is the son of Tom Peters and Eliza Peters (nee Schuler). Peters is a very successful farmer and dairy man. He married Ethel McIlwain. They have two children—Louise and Elizabeth. Peters lives on the Sessums-Crawford road.

The Great War of 1914-18 began to affect Oktibbeha County vitally in 1917, after the United States, having declared a state of war to exist with Germany, began to bend its energies to win the war, with the help of France, Great Britain, Italy, and other allies. Congress authorized the creation of various agencies, in order to provide the money essential, to inform the people about national and international matters, and to secure and train troops. Branches of these agencies were soon functioning in this county. Under general direction of the Treasury Department, some of our business men organized a finance bureau, to sell Liberty Bonds and War Savings and Thrift Stamps. Ames Saunders, T. B. Carroll, Wirt Carpenter and G. O. Daniel were prominent in selling the bonds; with the assistance of volunteer salesmen, the postoffices at Starkville, the A. and M. College, and other places, sold many thousand dollars' worth of War stamps. With the cooperation of the Department of the Interior and the American Red Cross Society, our people organized a county Red Cross bureau, with subdivisions; and under the leadership of Mrs. W. W. Scales and others, the women of the county made and sent to the army many useful and comforting articles. Mrs. Henry Beattie was prominent in the training of nurses. Under su-

pervision of the Interior Department, the Four Minute Men organized branches in every state and almost every county, for the dissemination of information. J. L. Neill, secretary of the College Y. M. C. A. was the first Mississippi Four Minute Men director; F. D. Mellen, who had been chairman for Oktibbeha County, became State director in the spring of 1918. The beat chairmen were Mrs. J. D. Hollinshead, beat 5; Mrs. W. D. Love, beat 2; Saunders, of beat 3; the Rev. McCaleb, of beat 4, and the Rev. J. D. Ray, of beat 1, and many other able persons in each beat served from time to time as speakers. Cooperating with the Red Cross, the finance agencies, and various organizations, our speakers delivered messages of Liberty in schools, picture houses, churches, and frequently from the stump.

All agencies succeeded. The general public was patriotic. In every part of the county the great majority of the people gave generously of time, work, and money for the prosecution of the war. Of course, a few persons either did little to assist their country, or, in a few cases, indirectly abetted the enemy by evading the draft or by opposing the policies of the National government. These cases were rare exceptions. Nearly everybody, white or black, labored and sacrificed that our soldiers and sailors might accomplish the more easily their tremendous task of fighting, and many whites and many negroes gave "till it hurt."

The young men who "went to war"—whether volunteers or conscripts—shed eternal luster on our county. Those who took long months of training in the great camps and those who went overseas, alike offered their lives for their country. The county, as well as their families, will always point with pride to these soldier boys:

LIST OF MEN IN ARMY
FROM
OKTIBBEHA COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

WORLD WAR
Furnished by

P. G. SUDDUTH, *Clerk*,

Local Board for the County of Oktibbeha,

Starkville, Mississippi.

Order No.	Serial No.	Name	Race		Year
117	493	Mack McIlwain	W		1917
120	1007	Lester O. Lewis	W	Volunteer	
122	353	Andrew F. Korb	W		1917
124	637	Daniel H. Thomas	W		1917
125	360	Paul W. Bell	W		1917
127	488	Oscar N. McMullin	W	Volunteer	
140	664	Albert Gay Heflin	W		1917
144	103	Willard A. McBride	W		1917
148	717	Richard Leroy Neal	W	Volunteer	
156	25	William R. Portlock	W	Volunteer	1917
181	1010	Barnett M. Rosoff	W	Volunteer	1917
189	292	Henry Grady Butts	W	Volunteer	
190	822	Raymond R. Henry	W	Volunteer	
211	336	Brooks P. Coleman	W	Volunteer	
229	23	Homer T. Powers	W	Volunteer	1917
234	715	John C. Foster	W	Volunteer	
241	875	John D. Rutherford	W	Volunteer	
		G. B. Kimball	W	Volunteer	
250	877	Carl J. Carpenter	W		
		Benton Gaston	W	Volunteer	
285	146	Thomas R. Bell	W	Volunteer	
312	747	Robert P. Logan	W	Volunteer	
348	481	Raymond Owens	W	Volunteer	1918
367	949	Thomas A. Sanders	W	Volunteer	1918
376	105	Morris Kantrovits	W	Volunteer	
414	629	John T. McAlister	W	Volunteer	
416	864	Arthur L. Goodman	W	Volunteer	

Order No.	Serial No.	Name	Race		Year
428	33	Stark P. Critz	W	Volunteer	
14	90	Lloyd A. Cummins	W	Volunteer	
19	91	Charlie P. Dean	W	Volunteer	
101	50	James W. Wallace	W	Volunteer	
4-A	136	Clarence W. McMinn	W	Inducted	11-12-1918
94-A	134	Otto Speed	W	Inducted	11-12-1918
113-C	132	Arnold H. Collier	W	Inducted	11-12-1918
7	20	Burrell R. Bennett	W	Inducted	11-11-1918
83	1406	Joe R. Vaughn	W	Inducted	11-12-1918
505	12	Halbert Otis Wax	W	Inducted	11-12-1918
680	202	Robert B. Harrington	W	Inducted	11-12-1918
907	620	Louis Roby	C	Inducted at a N. W. D. (Papers sent to Camp Pike, Ark.)	
1390	581	Henry P. Hughes	W	Volunteer	
97	23	Robert H. McManus	W	Inducted	11-12-1918
		Son Bell	W	Volunteer prior to	6-5-1917
		James Albert Gunn	W	Volunteer prior to	6-5-1917
		Will Ward	C	Volunteer prior to	6-5-1917
		William C. Butler	W	Inducted 1917 and	11-11-1918
		Benjamin F. Bell	W	Inducted from Ohio.	
		H. S. Chilton	W	Volunteer	
		I. D. Sessums	W	Volunteer	
		J. B. Perkins, Jr.	W	Volunteer	
		Robert Price	W	Volunteer	
		Maxwell Crow	W	Volunteer	
		Grady Blair	W	Volunteer	
		Joe Welch	W	Volunteer	
		Rufus W. Roberts	W	Volunteer	1917
1	256	James Gay	C		1917
3	854	Buren Lee Kellum	W		
4	783	Tommie Young	C		1917
5	837	Walter E. Curtis	C		1917
6	337	Emmit Burk	C		1917
7	676	Daniel Malone	W		1917
11	945	Curtis Drake	C		1917
13	536	J. D. Bolden	C		1917
14	548	Frank Carpenter	C		1917
20	373	Wade Rich	C		1917
21	775	Toney Bell	C		1917
26	507	Willie Ezell	C		1917
28	437	Joseph C. Lemmons	W		1917

Order No.	Serial No.	Name	Race		Year
29	604	Charlie E. Morgan	W		1917
9	509	Arthur Lee Savage	W		1917
33	1014	Fred Lee Ricks	W	Volunteer	1917
35	433	Nathan H. McGowen	W		1917
41	432	Jesse Oswalt	W		1917
46	601	F. M. Karnegy	W		1917
50	46	Buz M. Walker, Jr.	W	Volunteer	1917
54	602	Cisero McMullin	W		1917
66	332	E. O. Christopher	W		1917
67	379	Henry M. Tumlinson	W	Volunteer	
104	549	H. H. Carpenter	W	Volunteer	
105	440	Holly Jones	W		1917
110	638	Ruben Tomlinson	W		1917
448	38	Joseph P. Tillman	W	Volunteer	
482	702	Henry B. Howerton	W	Volunteer	
534	453	William Ward Love	W	Volunteer	
540	230	Arthur Erckson	W	Volunteer	
570	1027	Thomas Grady Reed	W	Volunteer	
596	14	George S. Oakley	W	Volunteer	
610	746	Benjamin J. Parrish	W	Volunteer	
633	1009	Thomas Gay Lamb	W	Volunteer	
664	916	Harris F. Wallace	W	Volunteer	
668	850	John H. Hutchinson	W	Volunteer	
670	855	Daniel Koonce	W	Volunteer	
701	454	James Wesley Love	W	Volunteer	
764	1005	Simon F. Blumenfeld	W	Volunteer	
782	389	Robert R. Butler	W	Volunteer	
808	496	Donald McArthur	W	Volunteer	
841	137	James R. Crowson	W	Volunteer	
856	159	Jefferson A. Oswalt	W	Volunteer	
874	733	Gilderoy Woodward	W	Volunteer	
898	95	Frank Oswalt	W	Volunteer	
916	243	Lewis W. Jones	W	Volunteer	
936	147	Raymond Lynn Bell	W	Volunteer	
937	39	Claud Marion Tingle	W	Volunteer	
943	35	Andrew B. Carothers	W	Volunteer	
968	495	Harry C. McCright	W	Volunteer	
989	143	William R. Sanders	W	Volunteer	
1010	813	Edward M. Goddard	W	Volunteer	
605	750	Joseph B. Bedgood	W	A. & M. College, Miss.	1918
771	558	Randle B. Carpenter	W	A. & M. College, Miss.	1918

Order No.	Serial No.	Name	Race		Year
	129	Harry J. Kanady	W	A. & M. College, Miss.	1918
1500	767	Mahlon P. Etheredge	W	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
133	646	William A. Hogan	W	Camp Gordan, Ga.	1918
527	21	John S. Puller	W	Camp Gordan, Ga.	1918
1016	760	Warren R. Sudduth	W	Rice Institute, Tex.	1918
1544	636	John Russeau Bell	W	A. & M. College, Miss.	1918
59	628	Daniel F. Crumpton	W	A. & M. College, Miss.	1918
191	759	D. S. McReynolds	W	A. & M. College, Miss.	1918
1502	635	B. L. Magruder	W	A. & M. College, Miss.	1918
1535	751	Louis N. Goodman	W	A. & M. College, Miss.	1918
1360	562	Augustus L. Sanders	W	A. & M. College, Miss.	1918
833	719	John Mitchell (Williams) N. W. D.	C.	Camp Pike, Ark.	1919
		Leverett Linderman	W	Volunteer	
		Frank Barr	W	Volunteer	
		Dr. B. J. Marshall	W	Volunteer	
		Forest C. Quinn	W	Inducted	1918
		Allen Wick Ivy	W	Inducted	1918
		Fedie Eckford	W	Volunteer	1918
		Leland Needham	W	Volunteer Navy Air	
		Winnie Moncrief	W	Volunteer Navy	
227	788	George Lee Lott	W	A. & M. College, Miss.	1918
1274	587	Joseph R. Haymen	W	A. & M. College, Miss.	1918
1171	60	Olga Dean Quinn	W	A. & M. College, Miss.	1918
	138	John A. Thomas	W	A. & M. College, Miss.	1918
500	592	Edward C. Wheat	W	Paris Island, S. C.	1918
1232	634	James Frank Brown	W	A. & M. College, Miss.	1918
292	632	H. S. Tucker	W	A. & M. College, Miss.	1918
223	588	Justice T. Rogers	W	A. & M. College, Miss.	1918
383	1296	Aaron V. Knight	W	A. & M. College, Miss.	1918
1483	773	Eugene B. Haynes	W	A. & M. College, Miss.	1918
1331	630	Thomas H. Chiles	W	A. & M. College, Miss.	1918
114	790	Ollie Lee Ashcraft	W	A. & M. College, Miss.	1918
342	641	Thomas M. Mayfield	W	A. & M. College, Miss.	1918
1077	703	William Earl Smith	W	A. & M. College, Miss.	1918
690	637	Wiley James Moody	W	A. & M. College, Miss.	1918
1336	639	John Sanders Lewis	W	A. & M. College, Miss.	1918
679	593	Reed M. Maxwell (S-57594)	W	A. & M. College, Miss.	1918
1194	700	Samuel L. Davenport	W	A. & M. College, Miss.	1918
1378	638	Rufus A. Jackson	W	A. & M. College, Miss.	1918

Order No.	Serial No.	Name	Race		Year
1084	583	M. W. Eichelberger	W	A. & M. College, Miss.	1918
31	699	Clifford G. Wallace	W	A. & M. College, Miss.	1918
702	763	Geo. W. Alexander	W	A. & M. College, Miss.	1918
88	590	Tom Owen Betts	W	A. & M. College, Miss.	1918
1403	771	Jesse Erving Tims	W	A. & M. College, Miss.	1918
1078	1262	Prentiss B. Crumpton	W	A. & M. College, Miss.	1918
1072	649	Carl L. Carpenter	W	A. & M. College, Miss.	1918
35	64	Robert W. Bell	C	Camp Funston, Kans.	1918
44	88	William B. Campbell	C	Camp Funston, Kans.	1918
50	25	Charlie Chandler	C	Camp Funston, Kans.	1918
51	58	Jessie Chalms, Jr.	C	Camp Funston, Kans.	1918
106	111	L. A. Campbell	C	Camp Funston, Kans.	1918
60	107	Johnie Rogers	C	Camp Funston, Kans.	1918
58	46	Leroy Jupiter	C	Camp Funston, Kans.	1918
63	94	Abe Dee Morgan	C	Camp Funston, Kans.	1918
107	9	Charles S. Neal	W	Camp Shelby, Miss	1918
33	13	Non Quincy Berry	W	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
36	11	Neely Lee Greg	W	Camp Pike, Ark	1918
38	35	Dudley D. Williams	W	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
127	95-A	John D. Maxwell	W	A. & M. College, Miss.	1918
137	35-A	Mikel E. Douglass	W	A. & M. College, Miss.	1918
44	82	Philip Archie Reed	W	A. & M. College, Miss.	1918
21	99	General K. O'Brian	W	A. & M. College, Miss.	1918
27	68	Willie P. Fulgham	W	A. & M. College, Miss.	1918
418	918	Jessie F. Reed	W	Camp Wheeler, Ga.	1918
298	832	David Weeks Hunt	W	Camp Wheeler, Ga.	1918
444	1013	Glyndon E. Roberts	W	Camp Wheeler, Ga.	1918
1006	508	Jacob Fight	C	Camp Funston, Kas.	1918
1359	648	William L. Smith	W	Millsaps College, Miss.	1918
1011	304	Simon Rogers	C	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
443	931	Samuel P. Langford	W	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
275	254	Joe Edgar Clardy	W	A. & M. College, Miss.	1918
922	502	Willie Bush	C	Western U., Kans.	1918
1026	977	Elijah Harris	C	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
322	802	Hewit Brown	C	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
331	202	Mike Prater	C	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
424	618	Will Coffer	C	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
427	777	Allen Brooks	C	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
515	479	Frank Owens	C	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
588	859	Chestnut Fox	C	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
678	579	William Scales	C	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918

Order No.	Serial No.	Name	Race		Year
708	319	Johnie Rice	C	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
768	547	Jimmie Lee Doss	C	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
800	922	James Fox	C	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
871	1026	Tom Dunn	C	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
297	115	Gaston L. Pennington	W	Camp Green, N. C.	1918
47-A	119	Round Lowery	C	Camp Funston, Kas.	1918
82-A	116	Andrew Logan	C	Camp Funston, Kas.	1918
111-A	117	Dave Kennard	C	Camp Funston, Kas.	1918
113-A	118	Will Austin	C	Camp Funston, Kas.	1918
954	591	Andy Conley	C	Camp Funston, Kas.	1918
1020	907	Sam Norment	C	Camp Funston, Kas.	1918
11	108	Jesse Nash	C	Camp Funston, Kas.	1918
13	89	Sam Bell	C	Camp Funston, Kas.	1918
15	65	Willie Evins	C	Camp Funston, Kas.	1918
21	63	Everage Edgar	C	Camp Funston, Kas.	1918
25	66	Tom James Wilson	C	Camp Funston, Kas.	1918
30	56	Bobbie Robinson, Jr.	C	Camp Funston, Kas.	1918
751	153	Walter Sykes	C	Camp Funston, Kas.	1918
780	779	Willie Mack Evans	C	Camp Funston, Kas.	1918
786	482	Henry Nash	C	Camp Funston, Kas.	1918
440	224	Alex Edgar	C	Camp Funston, Kas.	1918
196	477	William L. Reynolds	W	A. & M. College, Miss.	1918
71	74	Robert W. Shurden	W	Camp Green Leaf, Ga.	1918
734	903	Will Jordan	C	Camp Grant, Ill.	1918
522	42	Henry Vaughn	C	Camp Grant, Ill.	1918
921	324	Robert Montgomery	C	Camp Grant, Ill.	1918
952	74	Will Johnson	C	Camp Grant, Ill.	1918
11	36	Doctor Z. Smith	C	Camp Grant, Ill.	1918
1	69	Cleveland Devine	C	Camp Grant, Ill.	1918
886	568	Henry C. Thompson	W	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
683	559	Johnathan C. Rives	W	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
48	32	Dan William Rainey	W	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
35	38	Burnice Jackson	W	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
29	2	Henderson Josey	W	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
116	115	Andrew J. Harris	W	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
2	55	Cranfill S. Cole	W	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
49	49	James D. Morgan	W	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
454	743	Spencer Alston	C	Camp Funston, Kans.	1918
		Lynn Gunn	W	Volunteer	
		Bernard Gunn	W	Volunteer	
		Ike Linderman	W	Volunteer	

Order No.	Serial No.	Name	Race		Year
832	474	Summer S. O'Bannon	W	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
770	943	Harvey Gregg	W	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
934	971	John F. Harrell	W	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
980	478	Eugene H. Kennady	W	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
983	730	Eustice W. Mingee	W	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
21	99	Winter W. O'Bannon	W	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
24	72	Rufus R. Shurden	W	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
268	396	Dave Hampton	C	Camp Funston, Kans.	1918
299	206	Walker Seals	C	Camp Funston, Kans.	1918
521	372	James Askew	C	Camp Funston, Kans.	1918
576	869	James Harris, Jr.	C	Camp Funston, Kans.	1918
577	764	Rogers Rice	C	Camp Funston, Kans.	1918
581	938	Oscar Jordan	C	Camp Funston, Kans.	1918
597	980	Edmond Hart	C	Camp Funston, Kans.	1918
621	174	James Ward	C	Camp Funston, Kans.	1918
639	129	Henry Perkins	C	Camp Funston, Kans.	1918
649	959	Walter Campbell	C	Camp Funston, Kans.	1918
659	627	Frant Tate	C	Camp Funston, Kans.	1918
663	551	Sam Dickerson	C	Camp Funston, Kans.	1918
677	79	Lewis Lawrence	C	Camp Funston, Kans.	1918
682	649	Sam Moore	C	Camp Funston, Kans.	1918
689	630	Jessie Jones Knox	C	Camp Funston, Kans.	1918
723	516	Arthur Ware	C	Camp Funston, Kans.	1918
742	545	Clyde Edwards	C	Camp Funston, Kans.	1918
745	306	Eugene Rush	C	Camp Funston, Kans.	1918
747	317	Lieutenant McCright	C	Camp Funston, Kans.	1918
995	485	Elbert Nelson	C	Fisk U., Tenn.	1918
997	290	Abraham L. Smith	C	Fisk U., Tenn.	1918
86	103	Harrie W. Scoats	W	A. & M. College, Miss.	1918
884	515	Sam Ware	C	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
964	842	Early Davis	C	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
859	338	Arizona Blanchard	C	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
849	123	Arthur Douglass	C	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
821	595	Tommy Akin	C	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
960	201	Henry Prater	C	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
256	113	Nathaniel Odell	C	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
853	921	Huey Harrington	C	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
984	110	Henry W. Norris	C	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
909	722	Lewis Mason	C	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
992	256	West Jones	C	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
556	207	L. A. Seales	C	Jefferson Barracks, Mo.	1918

Order No.	Serial No.	Name	Race		Year
3	34	Leonard H. Turner	W	Ft. Oglethorpe, Ga.	1918
45	16	Ralph W. Butler	W	Ft. Oglethorpe, Ga.	1918
56	30	John M. Jeffries	W	Ft. Oglethorpe, Ga.	1918
78	7	Arthur H. Claridy	W	Ft. Oglethorpe, Ga.	1918
97	114	Earl Allen Fondren	W	Ft. Oglethorpe, Ga.	1918
71	74	Robert W. Shurden	W	Ft. Oglethorpe, Ga.	1918
592	580	Jethro Shurden	W	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
599	892	Mack Robertson	W	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
641	465	Woster L. Templeton	W	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
685	788	Lymon Thomas	W	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
691	803	Thomas P. Coleman	W	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
729-A	1033	Magruder Harris	C	Camp Grant, Ill.	1918
280	285	Andrew Johnson	C	Camp Grant, Ill.	1918
283	563	Shank Roberts	C	Camp Grant, Ill.	1918
309	570	Fred Logan	C	Camp Grant, Ill.	1918
324	378	George Bishop	C	Camp Grant, Ill.	1918
377	650	Pat Devine	C	Camp Grant, Ill.	1918
385	806	Walter Price	C	Camp Grant, Ill.	1918
399	205	Prince Seals	C	Camp Grant, Ill.	1918
410	100	Nash Hodge	C	Camp Grant, Ill.	1918
426	209	Excell Simmons	C	Camp Grant, Ill.	1918
429	32	Been Bishop	C	Camp Grant, Ill.	1918
446	41	Elbert Vaughn	C	Camp Grant, Ill.	1918
449	742	Frank Robinson	C	Camp Grant, Ill.	1918
451	127	Asa Moore	C	Camp Grant, Ill.	1918
480	322	Archie Mack	C	Camp Grant, Ill.	1918
486	198	Guster Skinner	C	Camp Grant, Ill.	1918
497	44	John Williams	C	Camp Grant, Ill.	1918
531	176	Dave Walker	C	Camp Grant, Ill.	1918
538	408	Tommie Cooper	C	Camp Grant, Ill.	1918
169	906	Osborn Norment	C	Jefferson Barracks, Mo.	1918
438	64	James Dawkins	C	Camp Grant, Ill.	1918
491	195	Frank Randle	C	Camp Grant, Ill.	1918
518	461	Westley Bell	C	Camp Grant, Ill.	1918
492	145	George W. Baycot	W	Fort Monroe, Va.	1918
772	132	Dennis W. Dean	W	Camp Gordon, Ga.	1918
934	903	Will Jordan	C	Camp Grant, Ill.	1918
907	472	Tommie Lee Neely	W	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
931	853	Jesse H. Harrell	W	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
973	66	Claud Draper	W	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
1000	385	Clay Lyle	W	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918

Order No.	Serial No.	Name	Race		Year
1014	188	Johnie J. Sullivan	W	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
278	185	Frank Gallager	W	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
908	484	Frank Nash	C	Camp Sheridan, Ala.	1918
267	436	Oren H. Lemmons	W	Camp Sevier, S. C.	1918
1009	220	Marlin S. Clardy	W	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
941	510	Sam Johnson	W	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
925	101	John Burg Lynch	W	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
894	439	Russell S. Holmes	W	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
857	419	Wm. W. Magruder	W	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
850	249	Lee Martin Bishop	W	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
818	70	L. D. Hawkins	W	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
696	946	Emery Kelly	W	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
601	251	John Thomas Baker	W	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
598	109	Edwin J. McMullin	W	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
349	895	A. L. W. Sides	W	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
334	272	George W. Fulgham	W	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
277	930	John L. Hammond	W	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
210	532	Mack Duff Vaughn	W	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
177	974	Grover E. Ford	W	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
437	529	McDuff Fondren	W	Camp Shelby, Miss.	1918
		Mr. Pugh (Dec. for Bravery)	W	Volunteer	
		Jubert Cook	W	Volunteer	
231	492	Hayden M. McKay	W	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
238	562	Rob't. E. Richardson	W	Camp Sheridan, Ala.	1918
260	808	William E. Barron	W	Camp Sheridan, Ala.	1918
262	267	James M. Harpole	W	Camp Sheridan, Ala.	1918
651	628	Henry K. McKinzie	W	A. & M. College, Miss.	1918
420	114	Richard W. Palma	W	A. & M. College, Miss.	1918
824	134	Claud Lee Dean	W	A. & M. College, Miss.	1918
463	264	Thomas G. James	W	A. & M. College, Miss.	1918
493	98	Frank Critz Page	W	A. & M. College, Miss.	1918
466	932	Jesse Lemmons	W	A. & M. College, Miss.	1918
957	865	Cecil Lemmons	W	A. & M. College, Miss.	1918
867	703	William C. Howell	W	Camp Sheridan, Ala.	1918
638	909	Joseph E. Savage	W	Camp Sevier, S. C.	1918
200	168	James I. McManus	W	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
206	300	Ollie Kemp	W	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
243	86	William G. Davis	W	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
270	862	Charlie E. Coleman	W	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
319	633	Robert C. Woodward	W	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918

Order No.	Serial No.	Name	Race		Year
352	582	C. Steadman	W	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
383	920	James Erick Jackson	W	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
384	456	William F. Monday	W	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
465	89	Dave Edmonds	W	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
503	847	Hugh Green	W	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
680	83	Dr. George Quinray	W	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
828	173	Jack S. Edmonds	W	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
901	610	Albert Rice	W	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
233	800	March Blumenburg	C	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
235	961	Walter Cannon	C	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
236	539	Tannie Brooks	C	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
467	863	S. N. Dickerson	C	Fort Oglethorpe, Ga.	1918
74	343	Walter Bishop	W	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
154	406	Mathey F. Ervin	W	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
157	392	Gay Skelton	W	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
44	927	Will Washington	C	Camp Funston, Kans.	1918
102	54	Ide Peeples Trotter	W	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
323	691	James J. Clark	C	Camp Funston, Kans.	1918
205	175	Ed Walker	C	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
582	497	Jewell W. Dearing	W	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
53	117	John Young	C	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
81	355	Robert Kennard	C	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
172	321	Richard McDowell	C	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
175	1002	Calvin Outlaw	C	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
244	1024	Zeno Nelson	C	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
255	450	Fred Jordan	C	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
259-A	1034	Meek Harris	C	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
974	718	Johnie Totten	C	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
815	377	Arthur Bell	C	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
320	712	Homer Hamilton	C	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
276	867	Sam Guy	C	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
232	565	Wallace Ramsey	W	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
213	49	Chas. W. Thompson	C	Camp Custer, Mich.	1918
472	308	William Rogers	C	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
237	349	Dallas Allen	C	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
239	501	Tommie Bush	C	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
1029	203	Dewit Samuel	C	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
326	422	Sam Longstreet	C	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
27	309	Percy Rieves	C	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
31	924	Ed Isac	C	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
48	182	Jesse Gamble	C	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918

Order No.	Serial No.	Name	Race		Year
57	772	Ferdinand M. Barry	C	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
72	298	John McCowen	C	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
85	218	James Emmerson, Jr.	C	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
89	31	Earl Bardwell	C	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
91	770	Alex Bell	C	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
113	269	Fess Gladney	C	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
123	970	Lenzy Henry	C	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
134	805	Robert Minor	C	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
143	345	Simon Miller	C	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
145	556	Leonard Davis	C	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
151	388	John Roberts	C	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
152	733	Charles Barnes	C	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
159	383	Sam Jackson	C	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
194	90	Leven Ward	C	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
197	753	Hospard Stephenson	C	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
199	858	Normen Evans	C	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
208	524	Floyd Johnson	C	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
217	622	Buster Watts	C	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918
222	857	Charles Edgar	C	Camp Pike, Ark.	1918

In November 1918 and in January 1919 two epidemics of influenza swept over the whole country; and they scourged Oktibbeha County frightfully. The earlier epidemic was the more terrific. Hundreds of persons, one day apparently in robust health, the next day lay seriously ill. Every doctor in the county and many laymen and women gave themselves cheerfully, and at the risk of life, in caring for the sick. At one time practically every physician in Starkville was either seriously ill or so busily employed that he could not respond to new calls for help. In this emergency, the Rev. J. D. Ray, who had had some medical training, and Dr. A. H. Rice, of beat 5, assisted the sick of Starkville community. Despite the constant attention of physicians and nurses, many citizens of the county died; and more than forty "war students" at the A. and M. College died. For a few days, almost every train from

the College or Starkville bore away one or more flag-draped coffins.

In order to prosecute the war, our Oktibbeha soldiers, white and black, joined four million other men in camp and in field, at home and overseas. Heeding the call of their country to arms, they abandoned temporarily the productive pursuits of peace, and became consumers. The price of farm, as well as other produce, rose inevitably. Between 1918 and '20, those of our farmers who abstained from purchasing high-priced articles and who farmed and marketed intelligently made some money; they enjoyed for a short time prosperity. A good many, elated by "good times" with which they were unaccustomed, invested heavily in lands and live-stock; some of them mortgaging their places for money; consequently when prices dropped radically after the war, some of these farmers suffered heavy losses in selling cattle, and others began a severe struggle against foreclosure. Farmers who bought cattle for six and eight cents a pound with the intention of fattening them and selling them for fifteen or sixteen cents, had to sell, when the market broke, at heavy losses; in some instances, they sold fine beef animals for only three or four cents, and in a few cases they sold inferior cattle for hardly the cost of shipment to St. Louis or other markets.

About this time, a new immigration law went into effect, excluding much of that cheap European labor that had for many years supplied the needs of the rapidly expanding American industries. The manufacturers, of the North and East, began to draw laborers from the farm. Many negro hands went to St. Louis, Detroit, Akron, Pittsburgh, and other manufacturing centers. Oktibbeha farmers now had too few hands for successful farming. And the county had a smaller population in 1920 than in 1910—16,872 vs. 19,676.

According to the '20 census, our population was distributed thus: Beat 5, 3,412; beat 2, 2,228; beat 3, 2,758; beat 4, 2,640; beat 1, 5,834.

With the advent of hard times, many of our land-holders had need of more money than our local banks could supply. Fortunately, the farmers had access to a local agency of the Federal Farm Loan Bank, which the Government had established about 1915. In May 1917, several citizens organized in order to assist farmers in securing loans from the Federal Bank. Of this association, J. S. Rice was temporary chairman; G. H. Brunson was permanent president; Everett Russell, vice-president; and Henry Beattie, secretary. J. A. Lamb, O. L. Smith, and J. H. Webb, and later Charles D. Thompson and J. D. Hartness were members. Eventually John H. Wellborn became land-appraiser for the New Orleans branch of the Federal Bank. When hard times came, many farmers in all parts of the county, eager for money, began mortgaging their farms. Unfortunately applications for loans continue still. Certainly both the farmers and the Land Bank should be cautious. Experience should teach us something. The loan companies of Reconstruction days lent money not less readily than the Land Bank does today; yet when cotton was from four to seven cents a pound, the companies made many foreclosures; and they had to buy in some lands which, I think, they sold for enough to come out even. Most farmers in those days, fearing foreclosure, did not mortgage their lands; doing without cash, they learned to practice self-denial. We can only hope that our modern farmers will not mortgage their lands and consequently will learn not to practice extravagance, which means ruin.

Since 1916, through years of uneasiness, war, feverish prosperity, and subsequent depression, our people have been

actively modifying the economic and social structure of the county. Following the example set by Sturgis, the citizens of the central part of the county have consolidated their schools, forming the Starkville school district, the Adaton school district, and the Longview school district. Likewise, the citizens of the western and southern parts, have organized the Self Creek, the Maben, and the Craig Springs consolidated schools. Again, the people have built a good many miles of gravel road. Gravel highways now extend from Starkville for six miles or more in several directions; and a gravel highway runs from Maben for several miles to the southeast. With improved roads our people have bought more and more automobiles; and now they are trading more extensively in the large towns, and a good many are attending the town churches. Since the boll-weevil has become a serious pest in the county, some farmers have almost quit raising cotton and are producing dairy products. They are improving the pastures, making more hay, building barns and silos, and buying dairy herds. Bob and Vivian Carpenter, the Hollinsheads, the Gastons, Allison Randle, John White, Hampton Young, and others in beat 5; Tom Montgomery, H. H. Harned, Will Sudduth, W. W. Magruder, Frank Hogan, and others in beat 1; J. C. Herbert and Sam Moore in beat 2; Albert Love in beat 3,—all these and many more are to an appreciable extent engaged in dairying.

Down in beat 5, Parke Daniels, a graduate of the University of Indiana and a Republican National committeeman in 1912, is operating a saw mill and is farming. R. and H. Rushing run a store at old Agency; and Gaston and Kimball have stores near Oktoc. A mile north of Noxubee bridge, Bob Gillespie, an intelligent negro, is engaged in sawmilling, farming, and merchandising.

At Sessums H. A. Hoyt has a general store; and two miles south Russell has a small store.

Many farmers raise cotton still; an increasing number are operating dairies. Few, if any, are getting rich.

The white people are having trouble in sustaining their churches. The membership of Salem is now small; that of Vernon is dispersed, and some of the former members are attending the Starkville churches; the members of Bethesda, now few, meet irregularly; and the Methodists of Sessums have only occasional services. On the other hand, the negroes are maintaining their churches. Pine Grove, Pleasant Grove, Zion Franklin, Cedar Grove, Mount Olivet, and Chapel Hill have fairly large congregations, and not infrequent services.

Schools for the white children are disappearing. The young folks in the southwest corner are going to Crawford for training. The Oktoc school is almost dead; the number of white children in this community is so small that an effective school is an impossibility. And recently, the children of the Sessums neighborhood began attending the Starkville schools.

A good many negro schools are in the beat; and the attendance is quite large.

In beat 2, the white people have no active church, but the negroes have several active churches. Black Jack and Rocky Hill are probably the most important.

At Osborn, Dr. S. M. Rainey, having returned from Lowndes County, is practicing medicine. John Milt Montgomery and the firm of Jeff Keene and Teasely have stores. At Muldrows, Jim Scott and Cooper Muldrow, a yellow negro, have small stores.

The farmers in this beat, as in beat 5, are turning from

cotton-farming to dairying and cattle-raising; but few are making money.

In beat 3, the white people continue tremendously to outnumber the negroes; and the present population, like their predecessors, are settled pretty generally throughout the beat, though some, it is true, have moved to Cedar Bluff, Starkville, and other towns, especially Maben. This stability of population has preserved, with modifications, the rural churches and the small schools. These, however, are beginning to lose importance. The few hard-surfaced roads and the Columbus and Greenville Railway, stretching along the northern border of the beat, are prompting the people to concentrate their social efforts in larger schools and possibly urban churches.

The citizens who live in proximity to Maben are now sending their children to the town school; and the white people of the southern part of the beat have concentrated their efforts in the Self-Creek Consolidated School. A good many one- or two-teacher schools, however, are still functioning; as a majority of the population are whites, the majority of these schools are for white children. The rural churches, too, are probably less active than in the past; preaching and Sunday school are rather irregular. The white rural churches are Bell's School House; the Methodist churches—Union and Double Springs; the Baptist—Long Branch, Center Grove, Chestnut Log, Clear Springs (Primitive or Hardshell), Self Creek; the Presbyterian—Lebanon and Pine Forest. The negro churches, not numerous, are the church near C. O'Brien's (Methodist), that near Harry Johnson's (Methodist); New Light, near Henry Bardwell's (Methodist), and a Baptist church near Bardwell's; a church a mile south of

Bell's on the Starkville road; and Sun Creek on the Cedar Bluff road.

From '16 to '18, Dr. F. B. Long remained in practice at Double Springs; in '18 he moved to Starkville where he has an extensive practice.

Maben, like Starkville, lost in population between 1910 and '20. It had 499 people in '20, exactly 40 fewer than ten years before.

Between 1916 and 1924 Mr. W. C. Saunders served a number of years as mayor.

The physicians at Maben are S. S. Thomas and W. B. Harpole; the one dentist is H. J. Harpole.

The merchants are J. A. Thomas and Sons; Hightower and Ray; D. W. Williams, jeweler; W. B. Boatman; E. R. Sherman; E. Reed, restauranteur; Boyles Brothers; Mrs. Ada White; J. A. Wax; W. C. Tumlinson; J. T. Bishop; D. H. Johnson; J. C. O'Brien; J. W. Cook Mercantile Company; S. Cooper; Harpole Furniture Company; B. F. Samuels and Sons; W. M. Sheffield, a lumber dealer. Somebody maintains a garage.

The Maben Home Bank, the only bank in the town, continues to prosper. J. W. Cook is the president; and Chas. Sherman, the cashier.

E. Lovett owns and edits the one paper, *The Maben Press.*

Several churches serve the community. The white people have two churches—a Baptist and a Methodist. The negroes have four churches—three Methodist—near O'Brien's, Johnson's and Bardwell's; and one Baptist—that near Bardwell's.

In 1916, the people at Self Creek issued bonds in the sum of $5,000, and with the proceeds built the Self Creek Consolidated School. A few months later, on January 1, 1917,

fire destroyed the school building. Not downcast, these progressive people, having floated another bond-issue, built another school. In April 1921, a cyclone destroyed this second building. The people of the district, assisted liberally by the general public of the county, almost immediately built a third schoolhouse. The principals have been H. D. Stewart, John Hutchinson, J. L. Smith, John McReynolds, W. E. South, and J. G. Good.

In beat 4, as in beat 3, the population has remained pretty generally scattered, though an appreciable number reside at Sturgis, Bradley, and Longview.

Sturgis is a prosperous business center. It has a bank, two or three churches—Methodist and Baptist—a gin and mill, ten or twelve stores, a plant for drying sweet potatoes, and in the neighborhood several sawmills.

The Bank of Sturgis, though it has a charter all its own, is nevertheless a branch of the Bank at Grenada. T. C. Perry, of Grenada, is president; Robert L. Hannah, vice-president; and B. G. Gaston, cashier.

Some of the merchants are A. T. Frazier, J. Kolb, J. T. Harrell, D. M. Foster, T. M. Vaughn, T. Shropshire, Carter and Jackson, E. Barron, Miss C. Hunt, J. A. Brown, Jim Drane, R. L. Hannah and Company, Burner Brothers, and Henry Barron.

Dr. Sanders practiced at Sturgis for several years prior to 1920; and Dr. Friday practiced here also until he moved to the Panama Canal zone. And Drs. Murphy and Roberts are enjoying a wide practice.

During this period, the principals of the consolidated school have been O. C. Hollins, George M. Deams, J. C. Cook, and John Lamb (formerly superintendent of the Starkville and the Agricultural schools).

Among the mayors of Sturgis have been J. W. Landrews, R. L. Hannah, G. E. Golecren.

Within a radius of several miles of Sturgis there are several churches. About four miles south of the town is Bethel; about the same distance to the southeast is Morgan's Chapel; and a short distance north is Wake Forest.

In April 1921 a very destructive tornado entered the county about four miles northwest of Sturgis, cut its way northwestward for fifteen miles, and passed on into Clay County near Cedar Bluff. The path was unusually wide, varying from four hundred to six hundred yards. The storm destroyed much timber, wrecked every house in its path, injured several and killed several other persons. It destroyed the Self Creek Consolidated school, as previously mentioned, but fortunately endangered none of the pupils or teachers, for it wrecked the school before "taking-in" time, about seven o'clock. Six or eight miles to the northeast, it destroyed the residence of R. P. Washington and killed four negroes on Washington's place. At Cedar Bluff, it killed the horse and cow, and destroyed the barn and the residence of John Leatherwood; and killed Leatherwood and his wife and a Mrs. Archer who made her home with them.

I stood in my yard in Starkville and watched this storm pass along in the distance. The noise and roar were so great that I thought the storm only two or three miles away, perhaps nearer; the sound was greater than the roar of either of the tornadoes of 1909, four or five miles from Starkville. In reality, the '21 tornado was much farther from town, being at the nearest point six miles northwest. A man who lived on the edge of the path gave me a vivid picture of this storm. He saw it coming and thought it would strike his house. The cattle in the pastures realized its approach, and ran bel-

lowing in every direction. The roar was awful; frightfully came a great column of revolving cloud, full of electricity, hurling debris, trees, and tree-tops. It missed his house two or three hundred yards, and was gone.

J. R. Davis and a friend, who were driving along the highway, heard and saw the storm coming. They unhitched the horse, left the buggy, and grabbed some roots to prevent being blown away. The storm roared, and was gone. They were on the edge of the path. The horse was unhurt; the buggy, blown a hundred yards, was ruined.

At Bradley Jim Brown has been running a store for years. A mile or two northwest of Bradley is the Pleasant Ridge Baptist church.

Beat 1 is the most populous and wealthy beat in the county. Some fine farms and several good dairies are in the beat. Only a few one-teacher schools for white children remain; several small schools for negroes are in the beat, especially in the southeastern part. The country churches are as follows: For whites, the Smyrna Methodist on the Louisville road, and the New Hope Baptist, about two miles northeast of Longview; for negroes, Ebenezer (Baptist), three miles southeast of Starkville—New Prospect (Baptist), four miles south of Starkville—Bethel (Baptist), in section 3, township 17, range 14—Spring Hill, on the Louisville road—and Josey Creek, on the Adaton road.

The principal centers of population are Adaton, Longview, A. and M. College, and Starkville.

Adaton is a small, but important place. It has one or two stores, two churches (Methodist and Baptist), and a consolidated school. At Adaton some of our finest people make their homes; among them are the Clardys, Hulls, Joseys, and Fondrens.

Longview is a business and educational center. It is the home of the County Agricultural High School. It is the center for an important lumber and cross-tie industry. Here W. W. Magruder, Jr., has a lumber mill; Nash Seitz, a saw- and planing-mill; and V. A. Anderson, a planing-mill. The town handles more cross-ties than any other station on the Illinois Central Railroad system.

The merchants are Fred. Richardson, John Hale, E. A. Buckner, W. M. Barton, one Martin, T. E. Veasey, Henry Sanders, and J. W. Wallace.

Two white churches are in the town; and a negro church is just out of town.

George Johnson is the town clerk.

The A. and M. College has enjoyed a slow but steady growth. W. H. Smith, having resigned the office of State Superintendent of Education, was president of the college from 1916 to 1920. D. C. Hull was president from 1920 to 1925, when, his health becoming impaired, he resigned. Hull was a graduate of the College; had served as a professor in it, as president of Millsaps College, and as superintendent of the Meridian schools. From 1925 to March 1928, when he died he was president of Wesleyan College in Kentucky. The A. and M. College has a postoffice, and express office, and a telegraph office; it uses Starkville telephone exchange. The lands, buildings, and equipment of the college are worth several million dollars. Approximately three hundred persons, chiefly families of teachers, live at the college through the year; twelve or fifteen hundred students take instruction in Agriculture, Engineering, or Science.

Starkville lost about a hundred in population between 1910 and 1920. In '20 the population was 2,596. The town, of course, remained the chief business center of the county.

During this period the officers have been as follows: Mayors, R. C. Bridges and H. A. Beattie; marshalls, H. K. Rosseau, '16-20 (to March); J. J. Ramsey, '20; W. W. Ritchie, '20-24; city clerk, J. T. Gunn, continuing from the preceding period, '16-24.

Bridges is a son of N. B. Bridges, sheriff many years ago. For many years he was proctor of grounds and buildings at the A. and M. College. His wife was Emma Colclough, a sister of Mrs. John H. Wellborn; she died about 1910. H. A. Beattie was born in Starkville, is a graduate of the A. and M. College, is an insurance man, and has lumber interests. He married Miss Caroline Steele Dusford, Ontario, Canada. Their children are Henry, Garnett, and Caroline.

The other officers are all natives of the county and members of prominent families. H. K. Rosseau met a very untimely death in the discharge of duty. One night in March, '20, while trying to arrest Henry Redus, Redus shot and killed him. Redus got a change of venue to Lowndes County; the jury, however, found him guilty and the court sentenced him to penitentiary for life. (A few years later, the Governor gave Redus a pardon.)

The banks of Starkville have prospered. On January 1, 1920, the Security State Bank increased its stock from $27,500 to $100,000, the increase being made from surplus and profits. The present officers of the bank are Wirt Carpenter, president; R. K. Wier, vice-president; J. P. Castles, cashier; J. C. Nash and Mrs. Treadwell (sister of Dr. Dodds), bookkeepers. The Peoples Savings Bank also has prospered. About 1920, the Dero Saunders estate bought control of the bank from Capt. W. W. Scales. The present officers are M. A. Saunders, president; W. H. Sudduth, vice-president; Walter Page, cashier; Alex Ames, assistant-cashier; Frank Cooper, bookkeeper.

And the Merchants and Farmers Bank has gained considerable business. Its officers are G. Odie Daniel, president; R. P. Washington and D. E. Slaughter, vice-presidents; J. S. (Sellers) Kennard, cashier; Stanley Carroll, assistant-cashier; and Isla Mae Bell, bookkeeper.

Thomas Wood, editor of *The Starkville News* died in '16; and soon afterwards a company purchased the paper. G. T. Gholson came from Alabama and became editor of the paper. Under his management, it has grown in power; it is a flourishing and substantial county weekly and is, as always, Democratic in politics.

During the eight years of this period, the churches have prospered. The pastors of the white protestant churches have been: Of the Presbyterian—W. H. Hill and "Preacher" U. S. Gordon; of the Methodist—T. H. Lipscomb, J. C. Park, J. C. McCafferty, T. M. Brownlee, and W. W. Woollard; of the Baptist—J. D. Ray. The deacons of the Baptist church have been M. A. Maxwell (died in '22), J. A. Glenn, H. H. Sikes (died about '27), B. M. Walker, Sr., and Wirt Carpenter. The rectors of the Episcopal church have been L. W. Rose and DuBose Murphy.

CHAPTER XIII.

FIVE YEARS OF PROGRESS

1923-1928

THE years 1923 to 1928 have been the most important years in the industrial and agricultural development of Oktibbeha County. Until the beginning of this very recent development the county had been, along with the general run of counties of the state, a one-crop county. Cotton was almost the only substantial crop and almost the only business of the county.

Col. W. B. Montgomery and other early residents of the county, as the reader will remember, saw years ago the possibilities of dairying as a suitable type of farming to off-set the evils of the one-crop system.

As early as 1912 some forward-looking farmers and dairymen realized that more could be made of the opportunities in Oktibbeha County for dairying. The "Prairie Lime Belt" lies along the eastern slope of the Pontotoc Ridge that forms the backbone of the state, dividing the Tombigbee and Mississippi River Basins. Oktibbeha County is within this area of northeast Mississippi. The soils are suited to the growing of clover, legumes, and nutritious grasses. The A. and M. Cooperative Creamery was established in 1912. From the small beginning with nineteen patrons and sixty cows, this creamery has expanded into a business organization of large proportions. L. O. Junkin of Oktibbeha County, who lived near Starkville, delivered the first can of milk to this

creamery. In the fall of 1912, farmers were asked to increase their production by obligating at least two hundred and fifty cows. Fieldmen representing the creamery secured the number of milk cows desired. They reported at that time there were 5,801 cattle in the county. The first twelve months of operation secured 105,651 pounds of butter fat.

To show the growth of this industry, the following figures showing the total amount of butter fat received by the creamery are of interest: 1913, pounds 105,651; 1923, pounds 431,839; 1924, pounds 424,641; 1925, pounds 459,502; 1926, pounds 577,572; 1927 (fifteenth year), pounds 809,794. For the first quarter of 1928 there were received 165,301 pounds of butter fat as against 126,080 pounds received for the first quarter of 1927, showing an increase over the three months of the previous year of 39,221 pounds.

The Cooperative Creamery was organized under plans of a cooperative organization and was operated as such until the year 1923. In that year the A. & M. Cooperative Creamery secured a charter of incorporation under the name *The Cooperative Creamery*. The organization now operates with a Board of Directors and a staff of officers. There are two classes of patrons: 1. Cooperative patrons, or stock owners or share holders, and 2. Cash or weekly patrons who do not receive dividends, but who merely sell cream at prevailing market prices.

For the year 1927 the Creamery paid to patrons for butter fat a total of $403,031.68. At the close of this year the Creamery had around three hundred patrons. According to reports made by authorities on dairy development a creamery, and especially a cooperative creamery, is an outstanding factor in the development of a dairy section.

The capacity of this Creamery has increased steadily. It

has manufactured as much as 18,000 pounds of butter in one single day. At the end of 1927 new machinery was placed in the plant. Cream from 200,000 pounds of rich Jersey milk can be handled daily. The plant makes a specialty of the manufacture of Sweet Cream Butter. It commands the highest market price to be had by any southern manufacturer, and the major portion of it has in the past been sold to eastern markets. Much credit is due Professor J. S. Moore, head of the Department of Dairying at the A. & M. College for the establishment of the Cooperative Creamery, the forerunner of the Borden Company's plant in Oktibbeha County.

By far the biggest industrial business in Oktibbeha County is The Borden Southern Company's milk condensery located at Starkville. Throughout the year 1925 the people of Starkville and Oktibbeha County led by the Starkville Chamber of Commerce worked tirelessly to interest the manufacturers of milk products in establishing in this county and town a milk condensery. Their efforts were rewarded by the establishment in Starkville of the first large milk condensery plant in the South. The Borden Southern Company opened its Starkville plant for business April 1, 1926. At the beginning they had one hundred thirty-five patrons; at the end of the second month the patrons numbered five hundred sixty-nine. The plant was originally constructed to care for fifty thousand pounds of whole milk a day. The plant is valued at $750,000, It is a condensery for preserving milk. The Borden Southern Company at Starkville is incorporated in the sum of $3,000,000. For the first month of operation, April 1926, the Borden plant received 1,082,563 pounds of milk; for the second month of operation the total was 1,958,-716 pounds. The highest amount received for a single month was 4,831,810 pounds for the month of July 1927. The total

amount of milk received and manufactured at the plant for the first two years, that is April 1926 to April 1928, is 58,654,-453 pounds.

The Borden Southern Company at Starkville paid for milk in the year 1927 a total of $954,269.30. The Cooperative Creamery paid to its patrons a total of $403,031.68, of which amount, however, $202,883.91 was paid to the Borden Company for butterfat. This makes a total of $1,154,417.97 that was paid to the farmers of this territory by these two industries in the year 1927.

For the year 1927 forty-six per cent of the patrons of the Borden Company were colored dairymen. The negro dairymen received seventeen and four-tenths per cent of the amount paid for milk by the Borden Company, the total amount paid to the negro dairymen for the year 1927 being $166,033.69.

The Starkville Canning Company was established in Starkville in 1925. This plant preserves vegetables and fruits. The first few years of its business has shown fair results.

The Starkville Coca-Cola Bottling Works was organized in 1928. The firm has a brick building and modern equipment. It is an addition to the industrial life of the County and of Starkville.

The Starkville Ice Cream Company, Incorporated, began business in 1928. It is housed in a brick building at the corner of Lampkin and Lafayette Streets in the town of Starkville.

One of the leading industries of the county is the J. W. Sanders Cotton Mill, Incorporated, located in Starkville. This mill was established in 1902 as the John M. Stone Cotton Mills, with the following officers: Arthur Whittum, president; W. O. Page, vice-president; W. W. Scales, Jr., secretary

and treasurer; the Board of Directors was composed of W. B. Montgomery, W. O. Page, R. A. Lampkin, W. W. Scales, Sr., W. W. Magruder. About 1916 the John M. Stone Cotton Mills became the property of J. W. Sanders of Kosciusko, the present owner of the mill. This mill manufactures about a thousand bales of cotton a year into thirty-six inch *Starkville Chambray,* a fine product of cloth.

Oktibbeha County has had excellent educational facilities since soon after the Civil War. It is the home of the Mississippi Agricultural and Mechanical College. In order to accept the conditions of the land-script endowment of the Morrill Land Grant Act, passed by Congress in 1862, the State Legislature passed an act in 1878 providing for the establishment of an Agricultural and Mechanical College of the State. Under this Act there was established a board of trustees consisting of nine members appointed by the Governor, who was himself to be ex-officio president of the board. The first important duty devolving upon this new board was that of the selection of a site for this college. With this end in view the board held its first meeting in the Senate chamber in Jackson April 11, 1878 and selected three newspapers published within the state in which to advertise for at least sixty days for bids for the location of the college. On the twenty-fourth of July of the same year, the board held a second meeting in the Ragsdale House at Meridian, and, after carefully examining bids made by some dozen or more towns in various parts of the state, finally selected Starkville. The board gave as its chief reasons for making this selection the fact that Starkville had made a liberal offer; it was a quiet country town; its people and community were exceptionally sober and conservative; there would be Christian influences thrown around the boys; and there was a variety of soils at

the location. The site is a mile and a half east of Starkville, and consisted originally of 680 acres.

Immediately building was begun. The first structures were an academic building, a dormitory for three hundred fifty students, a chemical laboratory, a residence for the president of the college, and barns. In 1880, S. D. Lee, Lieutenant General of the Confederate Army, was selected as the first president of the college.

When the college first opened its doors for students, October 6, 1880, three hundred fifty young men entered. All pursued the same course of study, which was designed to provide for both cultural and practical training. At that time there were only eight academic departments, preparatory and collegiate, as follows: English, Horticulture, Biology, Animal and Vegetable Physiology, Chemistry, Agriculture, Writing, Preparatory.

To meet the demands, there has been a differentiation of courses from the one in agriculture when the college was first established. During the session of 1892-1893 the courses in Agriculture and in Mechanical Engineering were established. Later these courses grew into the Schools of Agriculture and Engineering. In 1904 a School of Industrial Education was established; though this School was later discontinued, many students received instruction in it during its existence. A School of General Science was organized in 1911. In this School courses are available for students wishing to specialize in such subjects as Botany, Bacteriology, Chemistry, Entomology, Physics, Zoology, or in general academic or cultural subjects. In 1915 a School of Business and Industry was organized. This school was also discontinued later, as a part of the administrative organization of the college; the courses in business are, however, given at the pres-

ent time as a part of the work offered in the School of Science. The college has been designated as a training school of agriculture and industry under the Smith-Hughes Act, passed by Congress in 1917, and nearly all the teachers of these subjects in the high schools of the state are trained here.

Since the establishment of the college, it has developed until it today ranks well up to the best institutions of its kind in the United States. The grounds of the college at present include nearly three thousand acres in Oktibbeha County and several thousand acres in different parts of the State used for experiment station work. The appraised valuation of the grounds, plant, and equipment is over five million dollars. The number of students who receive instruction at this institution annually has increased from three hundred fifty at the time of its opening to over two thousand each year at the present time; this number includes the fourteen hundred (1928) students in the regular session and over six hundred summer school students. More than two thousand eight hundred students have graduated from the college since 1883. More than twenty-one thousand students have received instruction at the college. Through these graduates and former students the college is represented in nearly every profession and calling throughout the country, and in most of these the college graduates rank high. As engineers, agriculturists, physicians, lawyers, teachers, writers, scientists, and business men, graduates of the college render eminent service. They reflect great credit upon the institution and prove the wisdom of the Fathers in bringing such an institution into existence.

The college has a General Library that has approximately forty thousand volumes of catalogued books and more

than a hundred thousand unbound periodicals, pamphlets, and bulletins. The collection of bulletins of the various agricultural experiment stations of the country is probably as nearly complete as can be found anywhere else in the South.

Appreciating the fact that the work of the college should not be limited to class room activities alone, and that information that might be worked out here in the laboratories and in the experiment station should be carried to the people of the state, General Lee, the first president of the college, assisted by a few instructors, began in the early history of the college to make speeches in various parts of the state on live stock, orchards, and other agricultural subjects. To promote such work, the board of trustees ordered in 1886 that during each year at least six practical talks should be made by A. & M. College instructors to the farmers of Mississippi. This was the beginning of the Extension Department of the college, which is at present a very important part of the institution. It is of interest to the people to note that this was five years before the Federal extension projects were begun.

From this modest beginning, the extension division, with its great body of workers, began. Through its agents in most of the counties of the state and its specialists stationed at the college, this department is taking to the farmer on his farm the results of the research of experimental workers in soil fertility, crop production, the growing of live stock, farm management, marketing, and other subjects of importance. Whatever kind of information is worth while to the farmer in making agriculture more profitable and is of assistance to him in solving his problems, is made available wherever possible by the workers in this department. The Home Economics agents, under this department, are helping to reduce

the drudgery, the monotony, and the unattractiveness of the farm home and are carrying the message of hope and cheer to the housewives of the state. The workers connected with this department number nearly two hundred; and the expenditures, national, state, and local, constitute an annual budget quite as large as that of the teaching departments of the college.

About ten years after the establishment of the college, the state legislature passed an act for the establishment of an agricultural experiment station at the college. This act was to meet the conditions of the Hatch Act passed by the United States Congress in 1887. The scope of the work of these experiment stations, as explained in this Federal act, included the acquisition and diffusion among the people of useful, practical information on subjects connected with agriculture. With further aid from the Federal government, provided by the Act of 1890, the Adams Fund by the Act of 1906, and the Nelson Fund Act of 1907, the experiment station at the college has developed into a useful part of the college. In addition to the many bulletins containing useful information sent out to the farmers all over the state, the experiment station furnishes information and instruction to farmers who from time to time visit the experiment station farm at the college. Under the direction of the experiment station at the college, branch stations at Holly Springs, Stoneville, Poplarville, and Raymond are carrying on experiments and working on problems that are peculiar to the sections where they are located. These stations are rendering to the farmer services that are very valuable.

The headquarters of the State Plant Board are at the A. & M. College. The Professor of Entomology on the College Faculty, Prof. R. W. Harned, is the Executive Secretary of

this Board. This board employs a large number of workers and has an annual budget of about a hundred thousand dollars. It is rendering great service to the state in stamping out or checking the diseases that prey upon the farmers' crops and orchards. One of the special duties of this board is to assist in enforcing the quarantine laws, of the State and Federal Government, that are designed to prevent the spread of plant diseases.

The headquarters of the state chemical regulatory and analytical department are at the A. & M. College. By statute the Professor of Chemistry at the college is ex-officio State Chemist. The Chemical Laboratory is one of the best equipped in the South, and the State Chemist, Dr. W. F. Hand, with his corps of teachers and analyists is giving splendid service to the state. This department analyzes soils for the farmers and makes other chemical analyses upon application by any of the people of the state. The department also analyzes fertilizers, foods and feed stuffs, to see that legislation dealing with these matters is properly complied with. This department does a vast amount of work, employs a large number of workers, and handles a large annual budget.

The A. & M. College, with its thousands of students coming and going as the years pass, and its large faculty and working force, with its experiment stations, its extension workers, its plant disease-control work, and its chemical regulatory work has from the very beginning exercised a powerful influence in the development of Oktibbeha County and the town of Starkville.

The growth of the town of Starkville up to 1925 made it imperative that better school facilities be provided. At an election in that year the voters of the Starkville Separate School District authorized the issuance of bonds in the

amount of $100,000 for the purpose of erecting a modern high school building. On the fourth day of August, 1925, the mayor and board of aldermen, acting upon the recommendation of the board of trustees of the Starkville Separate School District, issued the $100,000 school bonds of the district. This amount was subsequently increased to $125,000.

The board of trustees at that time was composed of J. A. McKee, chairman, J. O. Thomas, Dr. C. R. Dodd, Dr. A. S. Crigler, and D. C. Castles. These men, or a majority of them, conceiving that it was their duty to provide the location for the new High School building, took options on the old J. A. Yeates residence lot on the corner of Greensboro and Yeates Streets, and on another lot back of and adjoining this lot, which latter lot was to be used as a play-ground. The board of trustees ordered warrants issued for the purchase price of these lots.

Certain parties objected to building the new High School in the western part of town where the lots about to be purchased by the school board were situated. These people thought the new High School building should be located in the eastern part of town, near or adjoining the grounds of the old school building, which was to be the Grammar School after the new building was erected for the High School. This dispute, commenced in August 1925 was settled by the Supreme Court of Mississippi on January 17, 1927, when it was held that the school trustees were acting within the scope of their authority in purchasing a site for the new school building.

This was an extraordinarily interesting and bitter fight. The facts of this contest are therefore recorded here.

The parties who objected to the location of the new school building in the western part of town secured the pas-

sage of a special act by the State Legislature taking away the powers of the school trustees and conferring upon a special commission to be appointed by the mayor the authority to select a site for the school building. The mayor and a majority of the members of the board of aldermen were among those who objected to the building being erected in the western part of town. This Act (Senate Bill No. 30 of the 1926 Session of the Legislature) was palpably contrary to Section 90 of the Constitution of 1890, and for this reason failed to serve the purpose sought by the parties. Other means had to be resorted to, and the city clerk, was advised to decline to issue the warrants. He therefore questioned the authority of the board of trustees to purchase land for school purposes, and the trustees brought *mandamus* proceedings. The trustees were represented by John D. Green, Jr., and Will E. Ward, while the Clerk was represented by B. F. Bell.

On the day set for the hearing this proceeding in the Circuit Court, F. L. Hogan, a citizen and tax payer of the school district, enjoined all further steps and proceedings.

It was contended by the complainant in this injunction suit, through his attorney W. W. Magruder, that the city council was authorized to purchase land for school purposes, and that no such power was conferred by statute on the school trustees. The trustees, represented by John D. Greene, Jr., and Will E. Ward, of the Starkville Bar, and McIntyre and Roberds of the West Point Bar, contended for an implied power to purchase land upon which was to be erected a school building, and also that the complainant had no right, as an individual tax payer, to question the acts of the board of trustees. The lower court sustained Hogan's contention, but the Supreme Court of the State reversed the case, holding that the school trustees were acting within the scope of their

authority in purchasing the lots; (See 110 Southern, page 775, McKee et al v. Hogan, November 22, 1926). Suggestion of Error in this case was overruled by the Supreme Court on January 17, 1927. This finally settled the controversy in favor of the school trustees' right to purchase the land necessary for the new school site.

In the meantime Zeno Yeates, owner of the proposed site in the western part of town, had withdrawn his deed from escrow and advanced the price asked for his property. The trustees then entered into negotiation with J. T. Gunn and bought from him the residence lot which he then occupied on the corner of Greensboro and Louisville Streets, several hundred yards west of the Yeates lots. They also purchased the residence lot of W. C. Gunn on Louisville Street, immediately to the rear of the J. T. Gunn lot, as well as the lot owned by R. B. Neal, on the opposite side of Louisville Street. The Neal lot was the same lot originally optioned by the board of trustees for a play ground, and was so situated that it could be used in connection with the Gunn lots, as well as with the Yeates lot.

The fight here related engendered much hard feeling; it delayed the erection of the new school building for over a year; it was an expensive piece of litigation, for not only had attorney's fees to be paid, but the difference in the amount of interest received by the tax payers upon the proceeds from the sale of the bonds and the amount of interest accruing on the bonds issued was considerable. This difference, a clear loss to tax payers, was around $4,000. The amount of proceeds from the original sale of $100,000 bonds was $103,186.39, which amount was deposited at the Merchants and Farmers Bank October 13, 1925. The bank paid in interest on this money from October 13, 1925 to March 31,

1928, a total of $4,997.56. The amount of interest that the taxpayers paid out for the period of about twenty-one months period involved in the dispute would be about $9,000. The loss to the tax payers, therefore, on the item of interest would be about $4,000. The bonds were sold to the Central State National Bank of Memphis for par and accrued interest plus $2,560 premium, accounting for the total deposit made at the bank October 13, 1925 of $103,186.39. The bonds were five and one-half per cent bonds; the sale price here mentioned made the loan cost the tax payers five and a quarter per cent.

Lindsey and Martin, of Jackson, Mississippi, had been employed as architects before the litigation was instituted. At the time of the final decision in favor of the trustees all plans and specifications were ready, and the trustees immediately let the contract for the erection of the High School building which now stands on the corner of Greensboro and Louisville Streets.

It seems certain that the loss of money referred to above that was caused by the delay growing out of the litigation was, fortunately, more than off-set by the fact that there occurred a heavy temporary slump in building material prices just about the time the contract was being advertised. The additional $25,000 bond issue was floated. The result was that Starkville secured, just at the time, for $125,000 a school building which is superior to many school buildings erected during the past few years in this section at costs ranging from $150,000 to $175,000.

An interesting phase of this "school fight" is revealed in the results of the municipal election that was held August, 1926. The "school fight" was the most prominent issue of the election. The old officers were: H. A. Beattie, mayor, and L. B. Camp, R. J. Goodman, J. L. Martin, J. D. Keene,

and John M. Arnold, aldermen. For mayor Beattie was opposed by J. J. Gill; Camp, for alderman-at-large, was opposed by R. L. Saul; Goodman was opposed in his ward by G. U. Utz; Martin was unopposed; Keene was opposed by H. Cunningham; Arnold was opposed by F. L. Hogan, the complainant in the "school case." The results of the election were: Mayor, J. J. Gill; aldermen, Camp, Utz, Martin, Keene, Arnold. The "school fight" was especially prominent in the contest for mayor and in the contest for aldermen between Arnold and Hogan. It will be recalled that the trustees had lost in the lower court and the matter was pending in the Supreme Court when this election was held in August 1926.

During this period a new school building has been erected for negroes. It is a well constructed building and was paid for out of the proceeds of a $10,000 bond issue for that purpose. This school not only teaches the usual school subjects but has also an agricultural and industrial department which is partly supported by Smith-Hughes funds furnished by the Federal Government through the State Board of Vocational Education.

The County Agricultural High School at Longview is a standard four-year high school. Since its establishment it has meant much to the development of the south-western part of Oktibbeha County, and has proved to be a wise investment for the entire county. At Longview too is a new Grammar School building erected in 1926 out of the proceeds of a $15,000 bond issue for that purpose. The building is a well arranged, substantially constructed brick building.

Likewise the other schools of the county have shown improvement during the past few years. School development has gone along with the industrial and agricultural development of the county.

The town of Starkville, the county site of Oktibbeha since the establishment of the county, has developed into a very progressive business center. The population in 1920 was 2,596; in 1928 about 3,500. Several new business houses have been erected since 1923, and many new residences have been built. The new hotel The Chester, on the corner of Main and Jackson Streets is of the type and convenience of hotels found in much larger towns. Several new automobile businesses have come to the town, the principal ones being the Starkville Auto Company (Ford dealers), Reynolds and Smith, Incorporated, the East Mississippi Motor Company, Morton's Garage, and City Service Garage.

Among the leading mercantile establishments are W. W. Scales and Company (established in 1876), Blumenfeld and Fried's wholesale establishment, A. B. Harrington's men's furnishing store, Goodman Brothers, Philip Goodman, Kleban and Matz, Ike Katz, Thos. Katz, Pryor's women's furnishing store, Rossoff's, Starkville Millinery Store, Wier's Jewelry Store, Wier's Drug Store, Puller's Drug Store, Hartness and Redus Drug Store, Long's Furniture Store, Tomlinson's Furniture Store, Starkville Hardware Company (successors to Zeno Yeates' Hardware), J. L. Martin's Hardware Store, Turner and Pierce Hardware; among the leading grocery stores are Reed and Lewis, Clarence Saunders Cash Store, Piggly-Wiggly Cash Store, Teasley and Reed, Carroll and Beverley, Jitney-Jungle Cash Store, Cobb's Grocery Store, Maxwell's Market, City Market.

Several individuals or families have engaged in merchandising in Starkville for more than fifty years.

W. W. Scales (I), for more than fifty years a prominent business man, settled in Starkville in 1875. Previously he had assisted his father, N. F. Scales, who had been operating a

mercantile business at Crawford since 1845. Walter established a branch store at Starkville about two hundred feet east of the court house; and he gradually enlarged the business. He was successful not only in merchandising but also in banking, being president of the People's Savings Bank for many years. Scales died in 1926, at the age of eighty-one. The mercantile business continued under the name of W. W. Scales and Company.

Scales married Emily Catherine Ledbetter (1843-1928) of Crawford. Their children are Walter W. (II), Lillie (Mrs. D. E. Slaughter, of Starkville), Sam. Webb (M. D., Vanderbilt; deceased), Hunter L. (M. D., Vanderbilt).

Walter W. (II), who continues the mercantile business, married Bertha George McGee, step-daughter of the distinguished Methodist clergyman, W. L. Dorman. Their one child, Walter McGee Scales, is a graduate of A. and M. College and the junior partner in the store.

Philip Goodman, long a prominent merchant of Starkville, began his local career in 1876, became junior partner of the firm of (Max) Stern and Goodman in 1880, and owner of the business in 1908. He was a very successful merchant and an amiable man. He died in 1927. His sons continue the business under the name Philip Goodman Sons.

Philip Goodman was born in the kingdom of Bavaria, Germany, in 1854. About 1880 he married Helen Oppenheimer, of Mannheim, Germany. Their children are Raymond (who manages the store), Arthur (captain during the World War, and a civil engineer), and Louis (an electrical engineer of Jackson, Miss.). All three are graduates of the A. and M. College.

J. L. Martin has been in business longer than any other merchant in Starkville. At the age of fourteen he was a

clerk in the firm of Bell and Martin (his father); later he and his father were partners; and about 1900 he expanded the business into the great hardware business.

Martin was born in 1861; he married Lula (daughter of Wm. Montgomery of Bradley). Their living children are Leila (Mrs. R. E. Williams, of Starkville), Ruth (Mrs. R. S. Hill, of Hazlehurst), Roy, Lewis W., and Frank Thornton. Roy and Lewis are graduates of the A. and M. College.

Benjamin Blumenfeld entered into partnership with H. Long and Company in 1874. He and S. Fried bought out Long in 1876 and founded the business house of Blumenfeld and Fried which has continued until this day. For many years the house engaged in the retailing of general merchandise, but since the death of the founders, it has been engaged solely in wholesale activities. For more than a half-century, Mr. Jack Carpenter was a faithful and active employe of the company.

Simon Fried was born in Germany in 1843 and died in Starkville in 1912. He married Sophie Cramer of Pennsylvania, born in Germany, a member of the nobility. They were the parents of Nettie (Mrs. Godfrey Bloch), Carrie (Mrs. B. Blumenfeld), and Gussie (Mrs. Morris Meyer).

Bejamin Blumenfeld was born in Germany in 1854 and died in Starkville in 1926. In 1888 he married Carried Fried. Their children are Simon and Mena. Simon received his education at the A. and M. College and in Austria; he is the active head of the wholesale business. Mena attended the State College for Women; she is an active partner in the business, which retains the name of Blumenfeld and Fried.

In 1923, the beginning year of the five year period, considered in this chapter,there was only one paved street in the town of Starkville, Main Street; in 1928 almost all of the

principal residence streets and all of the more important business streets are paved. During this period the town spent almost a quarter of a million dollars in paving the streets and sidewalks.

The professional men, physicians, dentists, and lawyers of the town of Starkville in 1928 are: Physicians, J. W. Eckford, H. L. Scales, F. E. Barr, C. R. Dodds, J. F. Eckford, J. R. Long, C. B. Mitchell (A. & M. College physician and surgeon); Dentists, H. D. Oakley, B. L. Magruder, A. S. Crigler; Lawyers, W. W. Magruder, B. M. Walker, Jr., A. F. Magruder (these three of the firm Magruder, Walker, and Magruder), G. Odie Daniel and John D. Green, Jr., of the firm of Daniel and Greene, Will E. Ward, Frank B. Bell (District Attorney), Joseph S. Rice, A. B. Butts (Professor of Political Science in A. & M. College).

The Oktibbeha County Hospital was opened in Starkville in 1927 by Dr. F. B. Long. It is located west of Yeates Street and south of Lampkin Street, just south of the Methodist Church. The location is well suited to the purpose of a hospital. The hospital receives monthly appropriations for charity patients whenever there are charity patients to be cared for in the hospital.

During this period there has been a very great expansion of the church facilities in the town of Starkville. About 1925 the Presbyterians tore down the beautiful house of worship erected in 1854, and built a large and handsome church at a cost of approximately $70,000. Shortly thereafter, the Methodists razed the frame building about which clustered many tender associations and erected a brick church, much like the Presbyterian but larger at a cost of approximately $110,000. About the same time, the Baptists enlarged and repaired their house of worship, making it well worth $55,000. The Epis-

copalians have retained their beautiful church without change for it is amply large for their present needs; it is worth about $20,000. And one of the negro congregations has recently built a church costing approximately $20,000; the other negro congregations still use their frame buildings. The churches of Starkville represent an outlay in excess of a quarter of a million dollars; few towns the size of Starkville have church-buildings as beautiful and commodious.

The ministers of the white churches have been: Of the Presbyterian church,—U. S. Gordon and R. S. Woodson; of the Methodist, V. C. Curtis; of the Baptist,—J. D. Ray; of the Episcopal,—P. F. Williams and W. B. Allen.

The marked increase of business in the county since 1923 is reflected in the statement of the three banks of Starkville. the total deposits in these three banks December 31, 1924 was $1,240,721.24; the total deposits of the three banks December 31, 1927 was $2,067,662.83, that is, over three quarters of a million dollars increase.

It is interesting to note the growth in the business of the three Starkville banks for the five-year period considered in this chapter. The Security State Bank is now capitalized at $100,000, since January 1, 1920 they increased their capital stock from $27,500 to $100,000, making the increase from surplus and profits. The total deposits of this bank for the past five years have been, at the close of business each year, as follows: 1923, $536,533.54; 1924, $621,067.68; 1925, $707,-964.78; 1926, $782,445.77; 1927, $895,706.48. The present (1928) officers of this bank are Wirt Carpenter, president; R. K. Wier, vice-president; H. P. Castles, cashier; J. C. Nash, assistant cashier; W. F. Munday and Mrs. Ethel D. Tread-well, bookkeepers. The directors are Wirt Carpenter, H. P. Castles, A. B. Harrington, W. W. Magruder, W. T. Norris,

B. M. Walker, and R. K. Wier, the last four of whom have served on the board of directors since the establishment of the bank in 1898.

The Peoples Savings Bank is capitalized at $25,000. The total deposits for the five-year period have been as follows: 1923, $495,821.49; 1924, $501,653.37; 1925, $576,023.10; 1926, $882,734.48; 1927, 727,394.45. In 1923 the officers of the Peoples Savings Bank were: M. A. Saunders, president; W. H. Sudduth, vice-president; F. L. Wier, J. L. Martin, R. J. Goodman, Max Goodman, S. Blumenfeld, F. L. Hogan, C. H. Frye, and J. C. Ward, directors. At the present time (1928) the officers are the same, with the exception of Max Goodman and C. H. Frye who have died since 1923. Walter Page is cashier; A. H. Ames, assistant cashier; F. Cooper and Misses Florence Hamlin and Alleen Henderson, bookkeepers. Miss Mallie Pierson was bookkeeper in this bank until 1925, when she resigned.

The Merchants and Farmers Bank is capitalized at $25,000. The deposits of this bank at the close of business for the past five years have been: 1923, $228,268.71; 1924, $283,548.67; 1925, 458,904.71; 1926, $440,847.64; 1927, $437,-294.92. In 1923 the officers and employees of this bank were as follows: G. Odie Daniels, president; R. P. Washington and D. E. Slaughter, vice-presidents; J. S. Kennard, cashier; Stanley Carroll, assistant cashier; Miss Isla Mae Bell, bookkeeper. In 1924 Miss Bell was succeeded by Miss Jewell McIlvaney. In 1925 Miss McIlvaney was succeeded by Miss Jessie B. Clardy. James V. Bowen was a vice-president in 1924 and 1925. He and John M. White were on the board of directors during the period here considered (1923-1928) and served in that capacity through the year 1925. In January 1926 A. B. Butts was added to the board of directors and made a vice-presi-

dent. He resigned from the vice-presidency and the board at the close of that year. The other officers and employees were for the year 1926 the same as for 1925, except that Robert H. Lampkin was employed as bookkeeper in 1926. He resigned December 1, 1926. The present (1928) officers and employees of the Merchants and Farmers Bank are: G. Odie Daniel, president; R. P. Washington, vice-president; D. E. Slaughter, cashier; J. S. Kennard, assistant cashier; Misses Jessie B. Clardy and Mildred Blackwell, bookkeepers. The directors are: G. Odie Daniel, D. E. Slaughter, R. P. Washington, C. F. Briscoe, L. M. Joyner, and Jesse Reed. J. H. Smith, who died in 1928, was for many years a member of the board of directors. Joyner and Reed were elected to the board of directors in 1928. Stanley Carroll resigned as assistant cashier in 1927.

The present (1928) officers of Oktibbeha County and of the town of Starkville, the county site are given here. Oktibbeha County is one of the nine counties in northeast Mississippi which constitute the First Congressional District of Mississippi; this district is represented in the United States House of Representatives by John E. Rankin of Tupelo, who was first elected to Congress in 1920. The county is represented in the State Legislature by Dr. J. W. Crumpton, in the Senate by Dr. A. A. Wofford, eastern part of the county, and J. I. Cummins, western part of the county, in the House of Representatives of the State.

The board of supervisors is composed of J. C. Page, president, D. W. Outlaw, G. C. Thompson, W. F. Thompson, W. S. Henry. Will E. Ward is attorney for the board of supervisors. The other county officers are: R. C. Bridges, sheriff; Mc. D. McIlwain, deputy sheriff; J. A. Lamb, superintendent of education; J. E. Buckner, chancery clerk; C. E. Scrog-

gin, deputy chancery clerk; Buck Reed, circuit clerk; J. S. Richey, tax assessor. S. B. Critz and E. P. Nichols, justices of the peace, and R. E. Williams, constable, for Beat One; B. F. Lummus, justice of the peace, and Emmett Smith, constable for Beat Two; J. H. Aswell, justice of the peace, and H. E. Turner, constable, for Beat Three; J. A. Pennyan and R. L. Whitmore, justices of the peace, and J. F. Keene, constable for Beat Four; George L. Henderson, justice of the peace, and Will Reese, constable, for Beat Five. The pension board of the county is composed of J. A. Glenn, Beat One, C. D. Thompson, Beat Two, Rafe Gregg, Beat Three, R. L. Whitmore, Beat Four; Henry Reese, Beat Five.

The officers of Starkville are: J. J. Gill, mayor; T. J. Gunn, city clerk; W. W. Richey, marshall; J. J. Ramsey, Street Commissioner; Arthur Goodman, city engineer; Dan Cox, night policeman; Buz M. Walker, city attorney; members of the board of aldermen, L. B. Camp, G. C. Utz, (died October '28), J. L. Martin, George Lanier (succeeded J. D. Keene, resigned), John M. Arnold. Trustees of the Starkville Separate School District are, Dr. A. S. Crigler, Dr. C. R. Dodds, J. R. Long, J. O. Thomas, J. S. Puller.

The five-year period, 1923-1928, has been one of marked development industrially, commercially, and educationally in Oktibbeha County. One hundred years of history of the county has been made; the future is promising.

CHAPTER XIV

THE OFFICERS AND THE MACHINERY OF LAW

OUR senatorial district has comprised several groups of counties. I shall use the following abbreviations to indicate the counties represented by a senator: Ok., for Oktibbeha; L., for Lowndes; Chic., for Chickasaw; Web., for Webster; and Choc., for Choctaw. The following list is only approximately correct:

James Walton, '37-43, Ok., Chic., Choc.; John H. Williams, '44-46, Ok., Chic.; Littleberry Gilliam, '48, Ok, Chic.; W. R. Cannon, '50, Ok., Chic.; R. G. Steel, '52-56, Ok., Chic.; John W. Rice, '56-7, Ok., Chic.; C. R. Jordan, '57-8; Moses Jordan, '61-64, Ok., L.; C. F. Miller, '65-67, Ok., L.; Robert Glead (negro), '70-76, L., Ok.; N. B. Bridges, '74-5, Ok., L.; W. H. Sims, '76-78, L., Ok., Clay; F. G. Barry, '78-80, Clay, Ok., L.; Dr. J. L. Creigler, '80-82, Ok., Clay; H. L. Burket, '84-86, Clay, Chic., Ok.; J. W. Barron, '86-88, Ok., Clay, Choc., Web.; A. A. Montgomery, '88-90, Ok., Clay, Choc., Web.; J. R. Nolen, '90-92, Clay, Web., Ok.; R. T. Love, '92-94, Choc., Ok.; Rev. N. Q. Adams, '96-98, Ok., Choc.; J. L. Seawright, 1900-04, Choc., Ok.; W. W. Magruder, '04-08; J. L. Seawright, '08-12; H. H. Sikes, '12-14 and Dr. J. W. Crumpton, '14-16, Ok., Choc.; W. R. Chrismond, '16-20; John B. Perkins, Jr., '20-22 and G. Odie Daniel, '22-24, Ok., Choc.; Tom Moseley, '24-28, Choc., Ok.; and Dr. J. W. Crumpton, '28-32, Ok., Choc.

The representatives of Oktibbeha County in the Lower House of the Legislature have of course been residents of the county. The following is as nearly accurate as I have been able to make:

Henry Gibson, 1835; H. W. or W. R. Norton, '36; John G. Skinner, '38; Richard Ellett, '40; S. O. Harrington, '41; David Montgomery, '42-43; W. R. Cannon, '46; S. A. Harrington, '48; U. S. Barry, '50-54; Dr. E. R. Burt, '54; Robert Muldrow, '56-57; S. H. Daniel, '58; Dr. H. W. Manier, '59-60; C. F. Miller, '60-61; Dr. J. G.

Carroll, '63-64; B. L. Cromwell, '65-67; David Higgins and Randle Nettles (negroes), '70-72; George H. Holland (white man), '72-74; Anderson Boyd and Ben Chiles (negroes), '74-76; H. L. Muldrow (distinguished white Democrat), '76-78; Rev. W. R. Rainey and Dr. J. S. Montgomery, '78-80; Dr. J. G. Carroll (and W. R. Rainey?), '80-82; Dr. J. S. Montgomery and T. J. Wood, '82-84; Wiley N. Nash and Dr. J. S. Montgomery, '84-86; J. H. Askew and ———, '86-88; Dr. J. C. Carroll and W. R. Rainey, '88-90; R. P. Washington and S. O. Muldrow, '90-92; Dr. Arthur H. Rice and C. B. Hannah, '92-94; Dr. J. W. Crumpton and ———, '94-1900; Dr. A. H. Rice and ———, 1900-04; J. W. Norment and ———, '04-08; John H. Wellborn and N. Q. Adams, '08-12; John H. Wellborn and C. B. Hannah, '12-16; Joe S. Rice and H. H. O'Bannon, '16-20; B. M. Walker, Jr., and J. D. Greene, '20-24; (Henry A. Fox and H. H. O'Bannon, '24-28; Jim Cummins and Dr. A. A. Wofford, '28-30).

From the organization of the county in 1833, until the present, the management of strictly county business has been in the hands of a group of men, usually five in number, one from each beat. Until 1870, this body was known as the board of police; since then, it has been known as the board of supervisors. Though the name changed, the functions remained the same.

A full account of the board of police is impossible. The fire that consumed the courthouse burned all records of the police board prior to April, 1863. We know, however, that since the county was rather poor for many years, the board had difficulty in providing for roads and bridges. The members of the first board were Elijah Hogan (president), Dossey A. Outlaw, Grabel Lincecum, John J. Skinner, and Howell Peden. In 1838, Nicholas Fitzsimmons became president of the board. In April 1863, B. J. Rives, of the southeast district (beat 5) was president; and the other members were W. H. Glenn (beat 1), B. Ball (beat 2), E. D. Petty (beat 3), and J. E. Montgomery (beat 4). In January 1865, J. T. Randolph took Ball's place and in January '66 became president of the board. At this time T. B. Burchfield succeeded Petty.

In January 1867, T. W. Puller succeeded Glenn and became president; and W. T. Carr became the member for beat 2; B. C. Joiner, for beat 3; N. Turknett, for beat 4; and E. Redus, for beat 5. In January 1868, Jesse Grun became the representative for beat 2, filling the vacancy caused by the death of Carr.

There was no further change in personnel until June 1869, when the Federal military authorities in charge of the state removed all the members and appointed new men. The new board was composed of the Rev. David Pressley, of Starkville, president—a good man; Juniper Yeates (negro), of beat 2; Randle Nettles (negro), of beat 5; and N. Turknett, of beat 4. No one represented beat 3 until January 1870, when D. K. Gavins took the vacancy.

From 1870 to the present, the following have been the members of the board of supervisors:

Beat 1—David Pressley (president in '70); S. E. Rives; T. J. Leak (president at time of death in '75); Freeman Crenshaw, 1875; J. C. Hines (president '76-78); J. P. Rogers (pres. '78-82); J. M. Ware, '82-84; H. A. McCreight (president, '84-88); R. A. Lampkin, '88-1912 (president, '90-1904 and '08-12); J. C. McCreight (president '12-16;) J. C. Page, '16 to the present (president, '20-32).

Beat 2—Juniper Yeates to '76; John Gamble, '76-78; J. C. Rand, '78-82; J. J. Culpepper, '82-86; J. E. Love, '86-90 (president '88-90); Murray Maxwell, '90-96; Isaac Winston, '96-1904; A. A. Montgomery, '04-12 (president, '04-08); G. G. Thompson, '12 to the present.

Beat 3—Dick Gibbons, to '72; Phillip Eddington to '73; J. W. Leverett, to '76 (served Leak's unexpired term as president); J. L. Sherman, '76-78; J. A. Davis, '78-80; James McIlwain, '80-82; W. H. Cunningham, '82-92; H. L. Bridges; I. Neely, '92-96; J. R. Fulgham, '96-1904; T. J. Harpole, '04-08; L. H. Nichols, '08-12; William Thompson, '12-16; J. L. Neely, '16 to the present.

Beat 4—N. Turknett to '72; Robert Craig, '72-'74; H. G. Sikes, '74-76; Elijah Ray, '78-80; Robert Craig, '80-82; J. B. Fondren, '82-84; Pilate Hunt, '84-88; the Rev. N. Q. Adams, '88-90; G. B. Hutchinson, '90-1900; John Quinn, 1900-08; Charles S. Fondren, '08-12; N. S. Henry, '12 to the present.

Beat 5—Randle Nettles, to '72; Caesar Lide, '72-78; R. H. Spencer, '78-80; A. P. Bray, '80-84; (president '82-84); D. W. Outlaw, Sr., '84-90; H. A. Fox, '90-1900; J. F. Stiles, 1900-04; J. A. Randle, '04-08; D. W. Outlaw, Jr., '08-20 president, '16-20); T. H. Peters, '20-24; D. W. Outlaw, Jr., '24 to present.

Records of the justice of the peace court are very incomplete. Probably since the organization of the county there have been two justices of the peace in each district or beat.

Between 1833 and 1870, the county or probate court had civil and criminal jurisdiction, but its jurisdiction did not extend to felony cases.

The probate court consisted of two officers, the judge and the clerk. The judges were David Reese, from 1833 to 1836; John J. Skinner, from 1836 to 1838; David Ames, from '28 to '67; J. L. Hopkins, for a short term; and G. S. Holland, until December, 1869. Holland and two justices of the peace composed the court. Holland, a native of Webster County, was a Republican.

Clerks of the probate court were Charles Dibrell, who remained in office for twenty-two years; J. H. Embry, who served from '51 to '53; John M. Clark, who held the office from '53 or '55, to '57, when he died; R. D. Clark and R. A. Lampkin, for a few days each in '57; W. C. Bishop, from '57 to '69 possibly.

The Constitution of 1869 abolished the probate courts, transferring much of the business to the chancery court. The last session of the probate court in Oktibbeha County was in December 1869.

The minutes of the circuit court prior to 1851 were supposed to have been burned when the court house was destroyed in 1875 and again in 1880, but some of the fine records are preserved. Some minutes between 1865 and 1880 are missing. At a special term of court held June, 1851, by

Judge Watts of another district by interchange with Judge F. M. Rogers of this district, there were about fifty civil cases and eighty-seven criminal cases on the docket. Seven of the state cases were against road overseers. Other cases were fifteen assault and battery, five exhibiting deadly weapons, five affrays, one disturbing worship, one disturbing election, fifteen retailing whiskey, one assault to murder, five larceny, one perjury, one altering mark of animal, one fire-hunting, one burglary, one malicious mischief, one receiving stolen property, one trading with a slave, one nuisance, one bigamy, twenty gaming.

This does not mean that all these indictments were found at that term. The system appears to have been to copy the indictments into the minutes as soon as the indictments were returned and then for the district attorney to make a motion that writ for arrest issue and be returnable at next term of court. This, under modern conditions, would warn all defendants to leave the county if they were afraid to stand trial. It seems that few were tried for crime until one or two terms after the indictment was found, and often cases were carried longer. Civil cases were rarely tried within a year after suit was filed. The intricate pleadings and technical rules rendered speedy trials very difficult to secure. The numbers on the back of the indictments and on file in the civil cases as compared with fresh business filed at that term indicate that some of the cases were probably two or three years old.

The first circuit judge was Jas. F. Trotter, then about thirty-two years old. He was a resident of Monroe County. He was appointed United States Senator in 1838, but he resigned before taking his seat, to accept a place on the Supreme Bench of the State. He was vice-chancellor of the

state from 1855 to 1857 and was professor of law at the University of Mississippi from 1860 to 1862. His first court in the county was in June, 1834. It was held out of doors in a grove about two and one-half miles northeast of the site of Starkville. It was held about one-quarter of a mile east of the J. W. Lewis place in the northwest quarter, section 28, township 19, range 14, east. The reason for holding court there was that it is nearer the center of the county. Calvin Cushman, former missionary to the Indians, lived there. He had named the place Hebron. The next court, about June, 1835, was held in the log court house in Starkville where the present court house stands.

The second judge who held court here was Adam of Monroe County in 1837. I believe he was appointed to hold court in place of Trotter. Adams was a Union Democrat. Later he served in Congress; he was United States Senator about 1852. The next judge was Henely S. Bennett who served from 1837 to 1845. He served one term in Congress as a Democrat, 1855 to 1857. The next judge was Francis M. Rogers of Monroe County. He was a Whig in politics, as nearly all judges were. He was elected in 1844 but began his term in 1845. He resigned in 1853 to accept the Whig nomination for governor but was defeated by the Democrats.

Locke E. Houston was the next judge, filling Rogers' unexpired term and holding only one court here. He also was from Monroe County. He had been a law partner of Judge S. Adams. He came within two hundred votes of being elected to Congress by the "American Party" in 1855. He was speaker of the House of Representatives of the State Legislature in 1863. The next judge was Wm. L. Harris of Columbus. He served from 1854 to 1858. He was elected

to the Mississippi Supreme Court in 1858. In 1860 he declined appointment from President Buchanan to the United States Supreme Court. While a good judge, he was regarded as severe. The next judge, James S. Haner, served from 1859 to 1864. He was living in Kemper County when he was elected. H. W. Foote of Macon was the next judge and served from 1865 to 1869.

At this time the judges became appointive and the Reconstruction period began. Judge John A. Orr was appointed and held office until 1876. He had been United States District Attorney, a member of the Confederate Congress and of the Mississippi Secession Convention, and a colonel in the Confederate army. He lived in Columbus. He was succeeded in 1876 by Jas. W. Arnold of Columbus. Arnold held the judgeship until 1885 when he was appointed to another office by Governor Lowery. He was succeeded by Wm. Rogers of Starkville.

In 1887 the number of districts was reduced and the term of office of several judges expired. In some way Rogers was assigned to the district in which Oxford is located, and he moved there. He was reappointed for that district and died in office about 1900. In the spring of 1887 Judge Locke E. Houston of Monroe County again became judge, succeeding Rogers, and held that office until about 1893. He was succeeded by Newman Cayce of Itawamba County, who held office until March, 1907. He was succeeded by E. O. Sykes of Monroe County who held office until March, 1909. Sykes was succeeded by John Mitchell of Pontotoc. Mitchell served only one year, when the county was cut out of his district and put into the sixteenth, embracing Clay, Lowndes, Noxubee, Kemper and Oktibbeha.

Thomas B. Carroll of Starkville was appointed by Gov-

ernor Noel, his term of four years beginning May 1, 1910. He held office until May 1, 1914. Governor Brewer declined to reappoint him. In May, 1914, the governor appointed T. C. Kimbrough of West Point as judge for this district. But in the meantime the office had been made elective, the term to begin on January 1, 1915. Kimbrough and Carroll were rival candidates for the office in the Democratic primaries held August 18, 1914. Carroll defeated Kimbrough by a decisive majority, carrying every county except Kimbrough's home county. Kimbrough held office only from May 1, 1914, to January 1, 1915. He is now (1923) professor of law at the University of Mississippi, and dean of the law department.

Judge Carroll was reelected for his third and his fourth four-year term without opposition. He began his fourth term January 1, 1923.

(Judge Carroll died November 13, 1923. Governor L. M. Russell appointed John D. Greene of Starkville to fill the interim until a special election for Judge Carroll's unexpired term could be held. The candidates were John D. Greene of Starkville, W. W. Magruder of Starkville, and J. I. Sturdivant of Columbus. Sturdivant was elected and, at the expiration of that term, he was reelected for the full four-year term.—Editors).

At the time they went into office the ages of the judges were approximately: Trotter, 32; Adams, 35 to 45; Bennett, 31; T. M. Rogers, 40; Houston, 40; Harris, 47; Hamm, 40; Foote, 40; Orr, 42; Arnold, 45; Wm. Rogers, 33; Houston, 68; Cayce, 50; Sykes, 52; Mitchell, 45; Carroll, 50; Kimbrough, 44; Greene, 31; Sturdivant, 50.

There were no chancellors as we know them until the Constitution of 1869 went into effect. Prior to that time there were a few chancellors in the state, one to three, handling

equity matters. The circuit court had jurisdiction in equity up to a certain sum. The first chancellors proper appeared under the Reconstruction. A. Pollard, an immigrant from the North, appears to have signed some documents as chancellor in this county about 1870. He probably lived at that time in Chickasaw County. After him, Theoderic Lyon of Columbus served a while. Then came C. A. Sullivan, who served until 1876. After him came Lex Brame of West Point who served until 1881. He was the first Democrat. Then came Frank A. Critz of West Point, who served until the spring of 1888; then T. B. Graham of Forest, who served until 1893. Then came Baxter McFarland, who served until 1900. H. L. Muldrow of Starkville was the next chancellor. He died in office, March, 1905. Then W. J. Lamb of Corinth served until January, 1906. Then came J. O. Robbins who served until 1914, when he was succeeded by T. L. Lamb of Eupora, who served until January, 1915. The office was made elective beginning January 1, 1915, and A. J. McIntyre defeated Lamb and entered office January, 1915, and served into 1925, when he resigned in his third term. Allan Cox succeeded to the office.

I think Pollard was a carpetbagger. Lyon affiliated with the Republican party but was a fairly good man and was a native. Sullivan was reared in this county, was a Union man, and did not serve in the Confederate army. He was active in politics during Reconstruction and was connected with the Freedman's Bureau, which was very obnoxious to the people. Brame and Critz were ex-Confederate soldiers. Critz was later defeated for governor by Vardaman. Graham was a Confederate colonel and a very strong lawyer. McFarland was an ex-Confederate soldier and a sound lawyer. Muldrow had been a member of Congress from this district and county

T. L. Lamb had been district attorney in an adjoining county and later (about 1923) was circuit judge.

The district attorneys from 1835 were as follows: Reuben Davis of Monroe served the first court in 1834 and continued until April, 1837. He was then about twenty-three or twenty-four years old. He later became the most distinguished criminal lawyer in the state. He ran for Congress as a Whig and afterwards affiliated with the Democratic party until 1878. In 1874 he was a colonel in the Mexican War. In 1851 he was a Union Democrat. He was elected to Congress as a Democrat in 1857. He quit Congress in 1861 and served in the Confederate Congress. Henry Gray, who I believe lived in Macon, served as district attorney from 1837 to 1845. He was a brilliant speaker and witty man. He is mentioned in Baldwin's *Flush Times in Alabama and Mississippi.* In 1845 A. K. Blythe was district attorney, and from 1846 to 1848 Septimas Caldwell held that office. In 1839 Charles G. Omstead served; in 1841, J. M. Graybill, and in 1843, A. Boykin. The last two were pro tem. Isham Harris of Columbus served from 1848 to 1859; then S. M. Meek was elected. Meek was followed by Thos. H. Woods. According to final record 14, page 286, John McRae at the April term, 1869, signed indictments as district attorney and did not say as pro tem. H. L. Muldrow of Starkville was appointed by Governor Alcorn in 1870 and served one year. Next came H. B. Whitfield in 1871. Whitfield was a native of Columbus, and belonged to a fine family, but joined the Republican party. He served until January, 1876; he was defeated by Wiley N. Nash of Starkville, an ex-Confederate soldier and a Democrat. Nash was succeeded in January, 1880, by M. R. Butler of Starkville who died in office December, 1891. He was succeeded by W. B. Walker of Aberdeen. I think Walker

resigned about 1896; and J. W. Barron of Aberdeen was appointed, and then elected, he died in office about 1904. He was followed by George T. Mitchell, then of Pontotoc but now of Tupelo, who served until the spring of 1909, when he resigned. Geo. Strange of Tupelo was appointed to fill the vacancy. Strange died in office.

In 1910 the sixteenth district was created and this county placed in it. H. H. Brooks of Macon served from May, 1910, to October, 1914, when he resigned and M. A. Saunders was appointed to fill the vacancy. In January, 1916, Saunders was succeeded by G. J. Rencher of Kemper. In January, 1920, Rencher was succeeded by B. F. Bell of Starkville, (who served until January, 1924, when Rencher again became district attorney. Rencher was elected without opposition in the August primaries for a four-year term beginning January, 1928, but died December, 1927, before taking office. Spinks of DeKalb served by appointment for the interim of a few weeks until a special election was held. In this election B. F. Bell was elected to serve until January, 1932).—Editor.

Grand jury foremen are usually the best type of citizenship as selected from the panel by the judge according to the standards of the day. A complete list of the foremen is not available, fire having destroyed many of the records. I give the names of a few who have served as foremen, indicating the beat in which they lived by numbers in parenthesis: 1841, John H. Selman (5); and Hugh Montgomery (1); 1851, James M. Bell (?); 1852, Robt. A. Lampkin (1) and Arthur C. Halbert (5); 1853, Jas. G. Carroway (5) and Simon C. Muldrow (2); 1854, A. J. Maxwell (1) and John C. Hines (1); in 1856, Dr. C. P. Montgomery (1) and W. H. Glenn (2); in 1857, D. A. Outlaw (5) and R. A. Lampkin (1);

in 1858, Patrick S. Cromwell (2-3); in 1862, Wm. P. Puller (1-?); in 1863, J. F. Jack (?); in 1864, Chas R. Jourdan (2-?) in 1868, W. S. Cross, (?); in 1874, R. A. Lampkin (1); in 1875, Dr. J. G. Carroll (5).

The first petit jurors whose names are preserved served in the circuit court of 1837; they are Erasmus Reese, Wm. B. Harice, Dudley Sey, Wm. Keen, Richard West, Joseph Joiner, Jordan Reese, W. Seals, Robert Bell, Hugh Wiseman, James Wiseman, A. W. Lampkin, and John Mickey.

The earliest lawyers who settled in Oktibbeha County were David Ames, Richard T. Graves, G. H. Flournoy, and E. E. Clark; and by 1838, L. C. Flournoy was here. In his press-copy letters, Clark writes in February '39 that his partner G. H. Flournoy had died recently. Clark died two or three years later.

A. W. Hines settled here about 1839; Charles F. Miller, about 1842—he died in 1877. Miller's partner was a Mr. Gregory; I am not certain whether Gregory lived here or in Columbus. Stephen E. Nash settled here about 1846, though previously, while living in Columbus, he had practiced here. C. J. Sullivan and S. B. Hollinshead were here twelve or fifteen years before the Civil War. Possibly before 1850, Joel Owens, who died about '57, had settled in Starkville; Owen's partner Mimms left Starkville about 1850. T. C. Bookter was here in the late 50's; and C. A. Sullivan (son of C. J. Sullivan) and H. L. Muldrow were admitted to the bar three or four years prior to the War.

About 1865, Mr. Bucker and Mr. Frank Pate located here; and Jas. P. Curry, formerly circuit clerk, practiced law here between '65 and '70.

COURTS AND LAWYERS A GENERATION AGO

By Judge T. B. Carroll. Press Copy, May, 1916.

Thirty-seven years ago when I was admitted to the Starkville bar, I made the seventeenth member of the profession at this place. None of the lawyers were old men and most of them were young and energetic. I give their names and ages; C. H. Alexander, 22; R. S. Blair, 34; N. B. Bridges, 41; M. R. Butler, 33; N. W. Carothers, 29; Thos. B. Carroll, 19; Jas. T. Chiles, 48; Geo. E. Critz, 41; John J. Dennis, 44; Henry L. Muldrow, 42; Wiley N. Nash, 34; Wm. Rogers, 30; Chas. A. Sullivan, 45; Chas. W. Townsend, 28; J. Marcellus Wood, 30; Thos. J. Wood, 30; Frank Townsend, about 25.

George E. Critz is still practicing law at Paint Rock, Texas. Frank Townsend is a lawyer and editor at Ackerman. All the others except the writer and perhaps R. S. Blair are dead. The last I heard of him was some twelve or fifteen years ago when he was county judge of Jack County, Texas. It seems strange that this county could have supported so many lawyers.

Starkville then had 1,000 population. The county as a whole was not quite so populous as at present. It contained fewer white people but more negroes. The people were far poorer financially than they are at present. We had only one bank in the county. Its average deposits were about $30,000 to $35,000. Now we have five and several of these have each many times as great deposits as our original bank.

But in some way there was a great deal of litigation in the courts. Justice of the peace courts, especially in beats 3, 4 and 5, often lasted for two or three days at a time and were held several times a month.

James M. Arnold, afterwards supreme judge, presided over our courts as circuit judge. Wiley Nash was district attorney and W. A. Hale, W. E. Saunders and Capt. H. C. Powers were respectively circuit clerk, chancery clerk, and sheriff.

Jas. T. Harrison, Beverly Mathews, S. M. Meek and Judge Orr, famous lawyers of that day, usually attended every term of our court. The first week of the term was always devoted to civil business and the balance of the term to criminal cases. Lex Brame, then only 31 years old, was our chancellor. He is still engaged in an active and extensive practice in Jackson.

Our petit juries generally consisted of seven whites and five negroes. There were generally from one to two negroes from each of the three eastern beats on the grand jury.

Our circuit court district was then the same as it is now, except that Winston County was included instead of Kemper. In attending courts in Winston County, especially the January term, the judge and district attorney and the members of the bar who usually accompanied them frequently had difficulty in reaching the county seat. The approved method of travel was to come to Starkville over the branch railroad and then go to Louisville by horseback. Noxubee River was generally high and the roads bad at that season, and the trip was a hard one.

Large crowds in that day attended court and took interest in cases. Such things as limiting lawyers as to the time they should consume in their speeches were unheard of. A great deal more importance was attached to the speeches of lawyers than at the present day, and it seems to be that old time oratory won more cases than our modern brand of eloquence wins now.

Shortly before I came to the Starkville bar, it numbered several others besides the seventeen mentioned above.

There was Mr. Miller, the father of our townsman, W. H. Miller. He died in the late 70's and for many years he had been considered the Nestor of the local bar. There was Mr. Terry who about the same time forsook the law for the pulpit. Then there were Pilcher, Finklea, Blevins, Jones, and Rand, who left Starkville for other fields. Finklea went to Kansas, Blevins who was a splendidly educated man went to New Braunfels, Texas, to practice law among the German colonists, as he was a fluent speaker in that tongue. He died there last year. Jones was a man of finished education and taught French in Dr. Seller's school as a side line during his stay here. He afterwards went on the lecture platform. Rand went to North Alabama and died there. Pilcher moved to Nashville, Tenn. (The press article of 1916 closes here).

Another lawyer was Hamp Turner, a unique character, who lived in Whitefield and rarely practiced except in justice of the peace courts in this and Winston County from 1870 to 1885. For the last ten years he has lived in Winston County. He killed a young lawyer at a justice court in the northeastern part of Winston and was later shot at a justice of the peace court by J. B. Archer, another lawyer at Whitefield, in 1873 or near then, but was not killed. I met him in court as opposing counsel in 1880 at Whitefield and later in Winston. He was considered a very overbearing man.

Muldrow was a Democratic congressman when I was admitted to the bar in 1879. Sullivan had been a Republican chancellor of this district. Dennis had been appointed by Governor Ames as chancellor of the Meridian District. He was from Kentucky and had been a captain in the Confederate army. Bridges had been Republican sheriff of Sumner,

now Webster County. Critz and Chiles had been justices of the peace and C. W. Townsend, mayor. The law firms at that time or the following year were: Muldrow, Nash and Alexander; Dennis, Bridges and Chiles; Carothers and Rogers, and Wood, Butler and Wood. Others practiced singly.

Between September 1879 and 1910, the following lawyers were admitted: W. R. Bridges, 1885; who died in 1887; W. W. Magruder, 1895; J. W. Norment, Charles Freeman, B. F. Bell, 1899; G. O. Daniel, 1900; O'Bannon, two or three years later; T. J. Hopkins about that time. Freeman and O'Bannon moved to Oklahoma after a year or two; and Norment to New Mexico about 1907 or 1908. Hopkins quit practice and is now a farmer in Winston County.

About 1910, Ozie Turner, M. A. Saunders, and John Perkins were admitted to practice. Then came Will E. Ward and John D. Greene, Jr., and B. M. Walker, Jr. Perkins moved to Alpine, Texas, in 1921. Turner lived in Sturgis and quit law in a short time. J. S. Rice was admitted the same time Ward and Walker came in. He has quit practicing. S. H. Harrington was admitted in 1905 and practiced at Maben. He moved to Missouri last year. The county bar, March, 1923, was as follows: Thos. B. Carroll, circuit judge; W. W. Magruder, 55; G. Odie Daniel, 54; B. F. Bell, 50; M. A. Saunders, 38; John D. Green, Jr., 31; B. M. Walker, Jr., 31; Will E. Ward, 31.

The laws of 1910 provided for the election of county attorneys. M. A. Saunders, appointed, then elected, served until October, 1914, when he was appointed district attorney. John Perkins followed him in office. He resigned to go to war in 1917 and was followed by B. F. Bell who held office until January, 1920, when the office was abolished, the Legislature meantime having made the office optional with counties.

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